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TRANSLATION

OF

THE PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1893.

SHANGHAI:

REPRINTED FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA HERALD AND SUPREME COURT AND
CONSULAR GAZETTE."

1894.

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TRANSLATION

OF

The Peking Gazette

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REPRINTED FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA HERALD,"
1891.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

1893.

1st January.

SHANTUNG, REMOVAL OF PEOPLE IN FLOODED VILLAGES.

In Shantung, between Chinan Fu and the sea there are eight districts (*Chous* or *Hsiens*), all of which have a good many villages lying actually within the Yellow River embankments. The lands round these villages are perpetually submerged, and the inhabitants consequently in the greatest distress. As has already been announced in the *Gazette* the Governor has undertaken the task of transferring these people to more suitable spots; and he now reports that their removal is accomplished. After the freshets of this summer the depth of the floods was greater than ever; those people who had not yet left the villages were pretty nearly reduced to the condition of fish; and they had to be taken away in boats. The total number of families transferred amounts to 33,297, belonging to 350 villages. The new villages built are 339, and the cost of the whole undertaking is Tls. 326,115. The new villages are at various distances, from half a mile to two miles, away from the old ones. As the water retires in the winter and spring, they will be able to cultivate crops of wheat. The Governor is much pleased with what he has effected, and remarks that officials of the Han Dynasty and the Ming Dynasty have long ago declared that the removal of the population is an important matter in dealing with rivers.

INSPECTION OF TREASURIES.

The Director-General of the Yellow River and Grand Canal reports that in accordance with the regulations, he has made his annual inspection of the funds in the treasuries of the two Taotais, who have charge of sections of the Grand Canal. The silver was weighed in his presence, and the fineness of the touch was verified. In each case the proper sum was forthcoming, namely in one treasury Tls. 10,880.5.0.1, and cash 24,966; in the other Tls. 406.4.0.5.3.

2nd January.

FORGERY OF AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT.

In the Governor of Shensi's *yamén* there was a supernumerary clerk named Chao, who had an acquaintance called Liu, a native of Kanchüan in Kiangsu. In the year 1873 Li An-chi, an official belonging to Tali in Shensi, bought Liu's sister as a concubine and took her back to Shensi. In 1880 Liu went to Shensi with a quantity of articles for sale, ebony chairs and tables, paintings, jade ornaments, and so on. By this time Li An-chi's original chief wife was dead, and Liu's sister, who had given birth to a son and two daughters, was promoted into her place. Liu went to pay his respects to Li An-chi, and induced him to buy a few tables and chairs, which were paid for in full at the time; but the rest of his things Liu sold to other persons. From that time forward Liu often went to Li An-chi's house; and after the death of the latter, which occurred in two years time, the widow kept him in the house to help her look after her affairs. He, however, abused his position of trust and cheated her out of large sums. The suspicions of the deceased's mother-in-law and other relations were gradually excited, and after a quarrel Liu was turned out of the house. Liu imagined that a relation named Li Pai-shun was at the bottom of this. He therefore to revenge himself brought an action against Li Pai-shun, charging the defendant with separating relatives and embezzling trust funds. However, he not only lost his case, but was ordered to discontinue all relations with his sister, the widow, and to return to his own province. Instead of obeying, he went to Sian Fu and lived there quietly. Presently the widow, her son, and her mother-in-law, all died one after the other, and a family council selected an adopted son for Li An-chi. When his sister's funeral ceremonies were being performed, Liu went to the house to take part in the lamentations; but the members of the family reminded him of the judgment which had been delivered against him and

refused to let him enter the premises. Smarting under this rebuff he lodged a plaint at the Governor's office, accusing Li Pai-shun and the other members of the family of improper behaviour towards him, and stating that Li An-chi owed him Tls. 3,900 for jade articles bought from him. The case was referred to the local magistrate, who decided against Liu, and again sentenced him to be sent home. On the receipt of the magistrate's report, the Governor confirmed the finding, and further ordered Liu to be deprived of his rank of licentiate as a punishment for his litigiousness. But before he could be got hold of, Liu heard what was impending on him and disappeared. He, after a time, came back to Sian Fu and formed an acquaintance with the clerk, Chao. Talking over the affair with Chao, he expressed his wish to pay off old scores with the Li family and obtain some of their money. If Chao could succeed in obtaining the reversal of the past decisions, get Li Pai-shun punished, and the price of the jade paid, Liu was willing to make him a very handsome present. Chao was tempted by the bait and said that he thought he could manage the business. As it was necessary that there should be some written proof of the debt, he asked for Liu's old accounts, and by changing names and figures contrived to show a claim against Li An-chi. He hoped that the judge would terminate the suit by a compromise and order something to be paid to Liu, out of which he would get some recompense. He also decided that the case should be taken before the Taotai of the circuit, with whom it would have a better chance, as it had not been in that officer's court before. Next he told Liu that he had a friend in the legal department at the Governor's, a secretary named Chang Shu-yen, who had promised that he would arrange for the case to be sent before the Taotai and would secure a favourable decision. Liu therefore gave him Tls. 100 for Chang, and when Chao said this was not enough, he promised Tls. 200 more in a few days, besides the large present which Chao was to have at the successful termination of the case. Chao then made Liu write a petition to the Governor, which he took charge of. Having forged some instructions from the Governor, he attached them to the petition with a seal cut from an old paper, and despatched them to the Taotai in the ordinary course. About this time Liu's wife noticed that Chao was frequently coming to their house, and asked her husband

what it was about. Her husband told her what was going on and bade her be sure to keep it secret. When the document reached the Taotai, that officer failed to notice the fraud, and summoned the parties before him. But the case was decided as before; and Liu got no benefit from the hearing. In due time the Taotai sent in a report which reached the Governor just as he returned from an official journey. There was thus a huge pile of papers waiting to be examined, and in his hurry the Governor did not discover the forgery. As Chao was afraid of Liu's recriminations after the failure of the suit, he pretended to be ill, obtained leave of absence and disappeared. Shortly afterwards Liu was taken sick and died, after again speaking to his wife about the affair, of which he gave her a full account. As soon as Chang heard of his death he came back and recommenced his official duties. Thinking that Mrs. Liu as a woman would be easily cheated, he went to her and demanded the remainder of the money which he said had been promised to him. But she was not to be bullied, and a violent altercation ensued between them. Somehow the story came to the ears of the Governor, who at once caused Chao to be arrested, and Mrs. Liu to be summoned to give evidence. She told her story, and Chao confessed to its truth. There were only two matters in doubt, one whether he actually received Tls. 300, as she said, or only Tls. 100; the other, whether the secretary Chang received part of the money and was privy to the fraud. As to the first point Mrs. Liu did not appear to be positive, and direct proof could only be obtained of the payment of the smaller sum. The latter is therefore assumed to be the correct amount. On the second point, namely Chang's complicity, Chao's testimony wavered very much. At first he asserted it positively, and then, when confronted with Chang, withdrew it, saying that he had alleged it falsely in the hopes of shifting part of the blame on to the other man's shoulders. In conclusion the Governor states that the sentence which he has passed on Chao, is that of being sent into penal servitude in a malarious region on the Kuangsi or the Yunnan frontier. As to the secretary Chang; no corruption has been proved against him, but the documents must have passed through his hands when they were returned to the Governor, and he therefore showed great carelessness in not detecting the fraud. He has therefore been ordered to be deported to his native province. The Governor has already in a

previous memorial reported himself and the Taotai for the receipt of a penalty on account of their want of vigilance.—*Referred to the Board of Punishments.*

3rd January.

No documents of interest.

4th January.

PROMOTION OF NAVAL OFFICERS.

As appears from a memorial presented by the Viceroy Li Hung-chang, there is a regulation, framed by the Board of War and approved by the Emperor, to the effect that officers in the Navy, who have been promoted to superior grades with acting rank, shall at the expiry of three years' further service have their new rank made substantive. In accordance with this rule the Viceroy sends in the names of ten officers who have completed three years, and therefore should have real rank given to them instead of acting.—*Approved.*

REMISSION OF LAND TAX IN CHIHLI.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang states that there is an annual inspection made to determine what proportion of the land tax can be levied on the lands in the great depression of the ground which extends through parts of Wenan, Yungch'ing, Tungan, Wuch'ing and Tientsin. The investigation for the present year has just been concluded. In Yungch'ing, Tungan, and Wuch'ing either the full amount can be collected or the matter has been dealt with in the distress reports, so that no further reference to them need be made here. In Wenan and Tientsin, owing to heavy rains and inundations, the crops were destroyed in the low lands, and remission in a greater or less degree is necessary. In Wenan, Such'iao and fifty other villages have 118,812 *mow* of bottom land, which, this year, as there is an intercalary month, ought to pay Tls. 5,795. But three-tenths of the tax being perpetually remitted, the net sum due is Tls. 4,067. Of this Tls. 1,260 should come from fifteen villages in which the destruction of the crops has been so complete, that the Emperor is requested to remit the whole amount under the regulation of Great Floods. In the thirty-six remaining villages, which should pay Tls. 2,976, the whole state of things is not so bad, and the remission is requested of half the tax due, as is provided in the regulation concerning small floods, the levy of the portion to be collected being postponed till after the harvest of next summer. In the District of Tientsin there are ten villages, Chaokou and others, containing 30,000

mow, which should pay Tls. 747. It is requested that in these half the sum due may be postponed till after next harvest, and the other half remitted entirely. Of this latter item Tls. 135 had already been paid before the occurrence of the floods, and should therefore be entered to the credit of the land-holders against the amount due from them next year. As a further favour the Emperor is asked to allow outstanding arrears all to remain over till after next harvest.

In a Rescript of very unusual length, which repeats a large part of the memorial and gives the exact sums and areas, the Emperor grants all the requests made by the Viceroy, and desires him to see that the people, not the revenue clerks, obtain the benefit of the remissions granted.

5th January.

DECREE.

His Majesty prayed for snow on the 29th December, but the much-desired boon has not yet been granted. On the 8th instant His Majesty will burn incense in the Ta Kao Tien.

MEMORIAL FOR PARDON.

The Governor begs for the remission of the sentence of imprisonment for life now being undergone by the wife and son of a rebel. These persons have already been in prison for more than 20 years. In the year 1869 the degraded General Liu Hsiao-chung *alias* Liu Chan-K'ang, was sent back from Shensi to his native place, Hotsé Hsien in Shantung. His rebellious spirit again showed itself, and the former Governor, Ting Pao-chên, in accordance with an Imperial Decree had him executed and requested His Majesty's instructions as to his family and property. On 24th December 1869 an Imperial Decree was issued to the following effect:—Some time since Lin Tien memorialised us with respect to Liu Hsiao-chung, a nominee for promotion to the rank of General, who had stirred up trouble in his brigade. We commanded that Liu's rank be taken away from him and that he be sent back to his home. Ting Pao-chên now reports that Liu, who commenced his career as a policeman in Shantung, Chihli, and Honan, after making submission was sent to join the Shensi forces, only to get into trouble once more, and be returned to his native place. He showed himself a violent and dangerous character on this last journey, abused the magistrates of the places en route, and even used fire-arms against his escort. Upon arriving at Ching in Shantung when he was placed under

surveillance he was most insubordinate. His associates at Chining were all of the roughest and most lawless class, and the people near his native place, hearing of his approaching return, were so frightened that they wished to repair to the provincial capital in crowds to pray for his execution. Ting Pao-chên has had this incorrigible offender, who has abused our mercy, put to death, and we approve his action. His younger brother was associated with Liu in his rebellious deeds and with all his family will be imprisoned for life. Liu's two sons, Liu Wei-ch'ing, and Liu Wei-hêng, will also be imprisoned for life. No remission of this sentence must be permitted.

This Decree was acted upon. Five of the prisoners died in prison, and there are now left only Liu Hsiao-chung's wife, and his son Liu Wei-ch'ing. It was subsequently suggested to the Board of Punishments that these two persons should benefit by the Acts of Grace of 1874 and 1875, but the Board refused to entertain the idea. The woman afterwards became ill and was released on bail. In 1890 she went to Peking and presented a petition at the office of Gendarmes for the release of her son. She quite forgot that she herself was only out on bail, and she made up a story of her whole family having been executed. She was sent back to Shantung and punished.

The memorialist considers that though Liu Hsiao-chung held dealings with rebels he was not convicted of rebellion himself, and though the members of his family were rightly included in his punishment, their faults have been expiated. Five of them died in prison, and the survivors have been incarcerated for more than 20 years. He therefore recommends them to the mercy of the Emperor, suggesting that they be released on substantial guarantee of good behaviour.

Rescript:—Let the Board of Punishments report.

MEMORIAL FROM THE CENSORS.

Memorial from the Court of Censors submitting, on the authority of twenty-four natives of Kuangsi holding official appointments in Peking, that the late Governor of Kuangsi, Su Fêng-wên, was not worthy of the honours recently granted by Imperial Decree. His Majesty, in answer to a Memorial of the present Governor, Chang Lien-kuei, ordered that his biography should be compiled by the State Historiographer's office (*Vide Gazette* of 30th November). The officials in question say that Su Fêng-wên's reputation

was that of a grasping, avaricious man and that the petition from notables of the Province quoted by this Governor Chang was of a bogus character.

Decree previously issued. (*Vide Gazette* of 28th December.)

6th January.

ANOTHER MEMORIAL ON THE SUBJECT OF THE POSTHUMOUS HONOURS GRANTED TO THE LATE GOVERNOR OF KUANGSI, SU FÊNG-WÊN.

T'ang Ching-ch'ung, Reader of the Hanlin College, T'sên Ch'un-hsüen, Director of the Imperial Banqueting Court, and T'ang Chun-sên, Supervising Censor of the Board of Punishments, add their protest against such marks of distinction being bestowed on an unworthy subject.

They make out a formidable list of his misdeeds under nine heads, contradicting on every point the eulogium of the present Governor, Chang Lien-kuei.

The principal charges against him are these:—

(a.) That while he was Prefect of Ch'üan-chow he induced a rich townsman named T'ang Kuang-wên to subscribe Taels 3,000 to repair the city walls and barracks, promising to recommend him for some reward. He then pretended that he had paid this sum himself out of his allowances, and got all the credit of the affair.

(b) At the same town he had a cage made to put prisoners in and keep them in a standing position, and made use of all kinds of dreadful tortures, whereby many persons were done to death.

(c) When the Taiping rebels came to the district, and the Hunan troops arrived to help the local forces, he forced the people to supply them with grain, but kept the fact secret, and reported payment of the equivalent and obtained a refund from the Provincial Treasury which he pocketed himself.

(d) While Treasurer he exacted fees from the students entering the examinations.

(e) He used a disreputable man as Superintendent of Likin and Military Funds, and offices were sold right and left.

(f) The likin tax at Wuchow Fu was made heavier than the taxes, and being imposed temporarily to provide guards for merchant traffic during a time of trouble, was kept on after the guards had been disbanded. No petition of the merchants had any effect as Su Fêng-wên shared in the proceeds.

(g) He employed an expectant Taotai, Hsi Ching, as Superintendent of likin at

Wuchow and all subordinates purchased their places through him. Officers in charge of stations amassed several tens of thousands of taels in two or three years, and even the examiners and runners filled their private purses to their hearts' content.

(h) He employed a relative named Fêng to be his manager for the sale of official positions, and his name is still held in detestation in the province as the most avaricious Governor or Treasurer since the rebellion.

When leaving the province on his promotion to the Inspectorate-General of Grain Transport he carried away with him his ill-gotten gains in piles of wine jars, hiring some Hunan plasterers living in Kuangsi to carry them. One of these jars was broken by a blow and the ingots of silver came tumbling out. The crowd shouted with laughter and cried derisively: "He has no sons or grandsons; for whom he is collecting this ill-omened wealth?" Memorialists feel bound to submit to the Throne the true state of his case and the true feeling of the people of Kuangsi. They are natives of the province and well acquainted with their subject. The evil deeds of the deceased Governor, Su Fêng-wên, were manifest to all and he was detested by the public. It would be a standing shame to the people of the province to have a temple erected to his memory.

THE YELLOW RIVER.

The Director-General of the Yellow River in a vigorous postscript memorial urges the impossibility of complying with the orders of the Board of Works as to certain of his accounts. The sum of Tls. 600,000 yearly is allowed for river works in Honan. Of this Tls. 480,000 is allotted to the river official for regular repairs, etc., and Tls. 120,000 goes to the River Conservancy Board for the provision of stones and other materials to be kept on hand for urgent use. This last amount the Board of Works now requires to be accounted for like other grants, each year's account to tally with its predecessor's, maps to be drawn of work done, and specific plans of each deputy's portion to be prepared and so on. Memorialist shows that the grant of Tls. 120,000 was made for two reasons: (1) to prevent the possibility of the regular river officials alleging when floods occur that they have no money or materials; (2) to counteract by the appointment of special deputies and gentry to deal with emergencies any incompetence or laxity on the part of the regular river officials. Every

cash of the amount is spent on the work, no salaries are drawn from it. This year for instance, when great danger has been happily averted, the purchase of stone alone took over Tls. 100,000. The remainder was spent in assisting the regular officials at the breach in the embankment at Chinnên. Such expenses cannot be fixed in regular account, one year the same as another. The stone is used whenever there is danger of the embankment giving way, and maps and explanations cannot be prepared. Again the deputies employed are discharged directly they show incompetence or laziness, and local gentry are employed because their own personal interests depend upon the safety of the embankments. Their work is of the most varied description, and is not of a nature for which guarantees can be taken. Nine-tenths is spent in buying stone and that is the affair of memorialist. Memorialist requests to be allowed to continue to give a special account of the expenditure of this grant.—*Rescript: Let it be as proposed. Let the Board of Works take note.*

7th January.

DECREE.

On the 29th December we prayed for snow and proposed to renew our prayers on the 8th instant. Yesterday a heavy fall of snow was vouchsafed, for which we are humbly grateful. To-morrow we will again burn incense in the Ta Kao Tien.

MEMORIAL FROM FU JUN.

The Governor of Shantung reports the disbandment of two naval divisions, the Têngchou division and the Jungchêng division. It appears that the boats of these divisions are old and useless and it is not considered necessary to provide new ones. Five hundred men are to be retained at Chefoo as coastguards, and for similar duties on shore which cannot be performed by the Northern fleet. These men will be available for boat duty when required and when the vessels of the Northern fleet are in harbour will man the necessary boats which can be hired for the occasion. As to the officers of the force they may choose between joining the land forces or awaiting selection for duty in the Northern fleet.—*Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.*

8th January.

ADDITIONAL TROOPS FOR HONAN.

As the Sungwu Brigade cannot at the present moment be sent back to Honan, the Governor of that province asks leave

to raise another battalion for immediate service. The memorialist states that, on his application, permission was recently given by the Emperor for the return of these troops from Shantung, and the Viceroy Li Hung-chang represented to the Throne that the retention of the Sungwu brigade at its present post was urgently necessary, because certain forts were being constructed for the defence of the ports upon the coast. The Emperor therefore decreed that the brigade should remain where it is till the forts are completed, and then its two battalions should return to Honan at once. After devoting a paragraph to the praise of His Majesty's sagacity, the memorialist continues his argument. Honan, he says, lies in the centre of the Empire and is traversed by great routes in every direction. On its north-eastern border, in spite of the most constant watchfulness, robbers are always entering from Chihli or Shantung. On the south and west, where the province touches upon Anhui, Hupeh and Shensi, there are three or four hundred miles of frontier, consisting of mountainous tracts in which marauders can easily lie concealed. The small number of battalions at the Governor's disposal are scattered about in detachments; but everywhere, and especially on the southern frontier, they are not enough for their work. Recently, when the Szechuan rebels made their way into Shensi, there were disquieting rumours along the Hupeh frontier; and the memorialist was really inconvenienced by the want of troops to send there. A year ago he asked leave to raise a force for home service and to pay it with the funds saved by the previous disbanding of one of the Sungwu battalions, but this proposal was negatived by the Board, so that he was unwilling now to revive it. He therefore requested that the two remaining battalions should be sent home. But this, he finds, cannot be granted and, moreover, it will be more than a matter of a few months before the Shantung forts are completed. The recent disturbances caused by *Kolao Hui* in several provinces are an additional reason for requiring more soldiers. For though all the outbreaks have been suppressed, some of the members still exist, and if careful watch be not maintained, they may make their way into Honan. After much consideration the memorialist thinks that the cheapest as well as the best plan will be to raise a battalion for temporary service, and disband it again as soon as the troops can return from Shantung.—*Granted.*

TOO MANY OFFICIALS IN ANHUI.

A memorial presented by the Governor of Anhui states that the province in question is a very small one; and in the years 1881-1882, because of the superabundance of officials of all ranks, no more were allotted for service there; after which period the ordinary system was resumed. Since then, in spite of deaths and retirements, the number of these present has kept steadily increasing, a special cause being found in the special appointments given to contributors of funds for the Admiralty or for the closing of the great breach in the Yellow River. At the present moment there are only seventy posts for prefects, sub-prefects and magistrates, while the expectant officers number more than two hundred; of miscellaneous posts there are one hundred and sixty, with at least seven hundred expectants. Not only does promotion to real posts seem hopeless, but also acting positions are unattainable; and even the number of special service appointments has been greatly reduced of late in order to effect economy. The abuses which must arise from this state of things are many and various; and the memorialist sees no remedy except that of allotting no officials to the province, which he hopes the Emperor will sanction, for the space of three years. This prohibition of course would not apply to successful candidates at the metropolitan examination, but to all extra appointments, whether for good service or as the reward for contributions.—*Referred to the Civil Service Board.*

9th January.

BAD HARVEST NORTH OF THE YANGTZE.

The Viceroy at Nanking reports that in the coast districts to the north of the Yangtze, there has been a very inferior harvest in the past autumn. The crops first suffered from insufficient rain, and then they were injured by high tides. An investigation has been made, and it has been found that the failure in the crops, though considerable, does not amount to what is officially termed a calamity. The memorialist therefore does not ask for any remission of taxation, but he proposes that there should not be any collection of last year's levy, nor of the arrears of former years, till after the harvest of the year now commencing.—*Granted.*

POOR RELIEF IN SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung says that there are always many poor people in Chinan Fu, collected there from all quarters;

and every winter it has been the custom to open two soup-kitchens, one at the East and the other at the West Gate of the city. Of late years the number of these paupers has been considerable augmented by the Yellow River inundations; on which account there has been an increased distribution of food as well as gifts of warm clothing. The expense, which has hitherto been defrayed from the unclaimed salaries fund and the deductions of two-tenths, has amounted to from twenty to forty thousand taels a year. This winter the Provincial Treasurer reports that he has very little money in hand from these sources; it is therefore proposed to supply eight thousand taels from the regular provincial revenue, and to take whatever more may be necessary from the funds of the office for charitable relief.—*Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

10th January.

CLASSIFICATION OF SHANGHAI MAGISTRACY.

The Vic-roy at Nanking states that the Shanghai Magistracy (*Hsien*) is classed as what is called a "three word" post, that is, as "busy, wearisome and difficult." But since the commencement of foreign trade, Shanghai has become the first of all the ports in the Empire; and by reason of its population, business and international transactions, the Magistrate's post there is more important than any of the "four word" Magistracies in the province. Among these latter is Tanyang, which by reason of its proximity to Chinkiang has gradually been declining ever since the latter place became one of the Treaty Ports. The memorialist therefore proposes to reduce Tanyang to a "three word" post, and to exalt Shanghai to "four words," when it will be classed as "populous, busy, wearisome and difficult." The effect of the change will be that the Magistrate at Shanghai cannot be appointed from Peking, but must be selected by the provincial authorities from officers of proved capability, who have already held an actual post of Magistrate.—*Approved.*

OLD GOVERNMENT STEAMERS DISPOSED OF.

A year ago, as was reported at the time, the Viceroys at Nanking sent to Hupeh the non-effective steam-ship *Ts'ei*, because the Government there required a vessel for official purposes. Recently H.E. Chang Chih-tung applied for another boat; and the Viceroy let him have the *Chinon*, a small iron-clad also on the non-affective list. The *Chinon* having been lying a long time at Shanghai, both her hull and her engines required repairs. These were carried out at the Shanghai Arsenal,

after which she was sent off with her whole armament and a proper complement of officers and men. The memorialist was also requested to furnish a vessel for Anhui, as the government steamers there were all found to be nearly worn out. He therefore let the Governor of Anhui have the *Fu-n*, which belonged to the Southern Fleet, and whose withdrawal from active service had been under contemplation. Arrangements for paying the officers and crews of these vessels will be made by the governments of the Provinces in which they are stationed. Besides furnishing this report, the Governor has made the necessary communications to the Admiralty, the Peking Foreign Office, the Board of Revenue, the Board of War, and the Board of Works.

FOREIGN-ARMED FORCE IN SHENSI.

As was narrated some time ago in these columns, the Tartar Commander-in-Chief at Sian Fu obtained permission to establish a force of five hundred men from the Manchus forming the garrison under his orders. The new regiment was to be armed with foreign weapons and drilled in the foreign style, the Peking Field Force supplying the weapons and instructors. The Governor has arranged to supply a monthly sum of Tls. 1,000, which will be sufficient for the allowances of the officers and men. The preliminary expenses have come to Tls. 2,000, and the money to pay for them has been taken from other funds, which will be re-imbursed from the permanent allowance at the rate of Tls. 50 per month.—*Approved.*

11th January.

PAYMENT OF ARREARS.

The Governor General of Kansu represents that the former acting Magistrate of P'inglo Hsien, Yü Jen-t'ao, failed to produce the land tax of his district to the amount of more than four thousand piculs of grain. As the arrears were not forthcoming within the limit of time allowed by the regulations, he was denounced by the memorialist and cashiered. The Provincial Treasurer now reports that the present Magistrate has received the whole of the missing grain from his predecessor, and the regular receipts for handing over charge have at last been duly signed. Under these circumstances the memorialist suggests that His Majesty may perhaps be pleased to restore Yü Jen-t'ao to his original rank and further to show him the favour of not requiring him to come to

Peking to be presented at Court by the Board.—*Request granted.*

KIANGSU LAND TAX, RATE FOR COLLECTING.

The high authorities of the province of Kiangsu report that the time has arrived for fixing the rate at which the land tax for this winter should be collected in Soochow and the adjacent prefectures. In the year 1865 it was decreed that, where the tax was collected in kind, for each picul there should be an addition of three-tenths on account of waste, and where it was commuted for money, the rate including the addition for expenses should be 4,500 cash per picul. From those who delayed till the beginning of the new year, an additional sum of 500 cash would be required. After the year 1866 the cheapness of grain caused reductions to be made in the rate; and the practice of fixing the amounts for each year has been carried on to the present time. This winter the memorialists propose to continue to allow the landholders the liberty of paying in kind or in money as they may prefer. They at the same time have been aware that care will be necessary in determining the rates; as the droughts last summer resulted in short crops and a consequent rise in price; so that there is danger lest, when the granaries are opened and the officials begin to buy, traders may take advantage of the opportunity and run the price up to an exorbitant amount. After careful enquiry and consideration the memorialists have agreed that it will be enough to raise the rate one hundred cash above last year; that is to say, those who give money must pay 2,500 cash for the tax and 1,000 cash for expenses; and those who bring rice, will as before pay 1,000 cash for expenses in addition to each picul of grain. There will be the further charge of 500 cash where payment is postponed till after the new year; and in all cases 52 cash per picul for freight. The sum of 1,000 cash per picul for expenses is an absolute necessity in order to enable the officials to forward the grain tribute to Peking; but being an additional sum and not the original land tax itself, farmers of bad character often try to delay or evade the payment. Such persons, according to the rules in former years, will be treated as refusing to pay land tax. These regulations apply to all Soochow, Sungkiang, Changchow, Chinkiang and Taitsung, with the exception of the districts of Kading and Paoshan, where the tax is always commuted, and of Taitsu, where the grain is ordinarily retained for the Manchu garrison at Chinkiang, but has this year been remitted.

12th January.

The Prefect of Shun T'ien reports that more than two inches of snow has fallen at Peking.

By Imperial Edict His Majesty orders that extra supplies of grain be issued to the Government Charitable Establishments of Peking. The Prefect of Shun T'ien represents that the season of bitter cold has now arrived and in view of the hardships of the poor we command that, beyond the regular supplies of grain, 400 piculs of panicked millet be issued to the Tzū Shun T'ang, and 300 piculs of the same grain to each of the two distributing stations P'u Chi T'ang and Kung Tè Lin.

DECREE.

The Censor Chêng Sū-ho requests us to give orders for the proper observance of the prescribed style and forms in literary essays and for the prevention of abuses in connection with the examinations. The essays should be composed in clear and sober terms and no wild writing should be permitted. The precautions taken in the examination halls should be effective. It is highly improper that abuses such as are mentioned by the Censor, namely the exchange of papers and the personation of candidates, should exist.—*Let the Board of Ceremonies at once draw attention to the prohibition of these malpractices, and let stringent proclamations be issued before each examination. These rules must not be disregarded.*

Memorial from Yang Ch'ang-chün, Governor-General of Kansu and Shen-si, asking for an increase in the estimates for the courier service of Kansu. He represents that the original amount allowed was Tls. 257,000 a year. The Mahomedan rebellion disorganised the service, and subsequently in 1883 a reduced amount was allotted—of Tls. 106,000 and food and fodder—which was sufficient at the time, as the military establishment supplemented the ordinary couriers, etc. But now that affairs have resumed their regular footing and new administrative districts have been formed in the West, Ili, Kashgar, etc., the estimate is found to be too low, and much expense and trouble is inflicted upon the local officials, who dare not delay public despatches or neglect to furnish means of transit to travelling officials. This year the international complications on the southern borders of Kashgar have entailed a great amount of postal work, important despatches passing in great numbers.

Memorialist recommends that the amount of 135,300 taels, besides food and fodder,

be allowed from the beginning of next year. The extra sum will be paid out of likin receipts.—*Excerpt: Let the Board concerned report.*

13th January.

DECREE.

Some time since the Manchu Brigade-General of Kueihuech'eng (in the north of Shansi), K'uei Ying, memorialised us denouncing the Acting Prefect of Kueihuech'eng, Chang Hsin-t'ai, for wanton oppression of the people and construction of illegal instruments of torture. We gave orders for Chang Hsin-t'ai to be deprived of his rank and handed over to the Acting Governor of Shansi, Hu P'in-chih, for trial. Hu P'in-chih now reports that the charge of illegal taxes and extortion cannot be sustained, but with regard to the introduction of implements of torture, Chang Hsin-t'ai did make use of a three-holed cangue on one occasion as a special punishment. Hu P'in-chih is of opinion that this cannot be considered equivalent to illegal cruelty and begs us to remit his degradation of rank and to allow him to be presented in audience by the Board of Civil Office.

His Majesty refuses to remit this punishment, as the use of the three-holed cangue was undoubtedly illegal, and continues:—

The Governor in a postscript memorial submits a request that we will instruct the Brigade-General that future cases between Mongols and Chinese must be left to the district official to settle, and that he should not take upon himself to deputise officers to take part with the said official in the investigation. If the official show any partiality in the trial he should report him to the Governor, who will, if he finds him in fault, denounce him to the Throne.

We hereby command that all public business between these officials (the Manchu Brigade-General and the Chinese Governor) shall according to precedent be transacted in a friendly, upright manner in consultation. Let there be no obstinacy of opinion to the detriment of the affairs of Government.—*Let the Board concerned take note.*

14th January.

DECREE.

The Supervising Censor Hung Liang-p'in having denounced Hsieh Chün, Assistant Reader of the Grand Secretariat, for joining with Tu Ch'üan in certain turbulent proceedings in Peking, we deputed Hsü Tung and Hwai T'a-pu to investigate the matter. These officials now report that

Hsieh Chün has had no dealings with Tu Ch'üan and the charge is dismissed.

The suspended sub-prefect Tu Ch'üan having earned himself a nick-name and having associated with the underlings of the Board of Punishments has disgraced his cloth. Let him be immediately deprived of his rank and, as proposed, receive 60 blows with the heavy bamboo and be banished for one year. On the expiration of the period of one year let him be taken to his native place, there to be kept under strict surveillance by the local officials and not permitted to come to Peking to make trouble.

15th January.

FUNDS FOR FRONTIER DEFENCE.

The Governor of Kiangsu states that in the year 1880, when large sums of money became immediately necessary for the defence of the northern and eastern frontiers, the province of Kiangsu was required to furnish annually from its likin receipts a sum of eighty thousand taels. He is now sending to Peking mercantile bills of exchange for the second half of this year's subsidy.

CHINKIANG OPIUM DUTY.

Since the time when the additional import duty began to be levied by the Customs, it has been the rule that this duty and likin must be retained in the treasury of the Custom House which collected them till instructions arrive from the Board of Revenue as to the disposal of the money. A report of the sums collected must also be furnished to the Throne at the termination of every three months. During the third quarter of last year the receipts at Chinkiang amounted to Tls. 22,023 on account of duty, and Tls. 58,729 on account of likin. Of these two sums there remains, after the payments which have been made from them, a balance of Tls. 29,534.

16th January.

IMPERIAL GIFT TO THE POOR.

Her Majesty the Empress Dowager is aware that the excessive rains this year have caused more than ordinary distress among the poor people of the metropolitan prefecture and the rest of the province of Chihli. She is deeply moved by the thoughts of the sufferings which they must endure at the present season of severe cold. She therefore has desired the Emperor to bestow upon them a sum of twenty thousand taels from the privy purse. In making known this Decree His Majesty commands the high authorities of the

metropolis and the province to select trustworthy officers who shall visit the different localities and take means to ensure that the imperial bounty reaches those for whom it is intended, in accordance with the beneficent wishes of Her Majesty.

INSURRECTION SUPPRESSED IN KUANGTUNG.

The high authorities at Canton state that in Lienping Chou, which is part of Huichou Fu, there is a small market town called Chunghsin Hsü. In this neighbourhood there is a stream, large enough for boat traffic, and used by the country folk to water their fields. One village is inhabited by people of the name of Wu, a numerous and turbulent clan; who long made themselves a general pest, by damming up the river and exacting large sums of money from those who wished to make use of it or its water. The magistrate heard of this and forced them to re-open the channel; but they afterwards secretly stopped it again. A little while later a gentleman was killed while travelling on the high road. The assassins were arrested, and confessed that they had been bribed by some of the Wu clan to commit the murder, because the gentleman had aided the magistrate in opening the river. The magistrate sent his police to apprehend the instigators of the crime; but the people of the clan would not give them up. They had even the audacity to man an old fort, which stood within the enclosure of their village; and opening fire upon the officers, they drove them away from the place. This having been reported by the magistrate, the Governor-General took counsel with the provincial commander-in-chief and sent a body of troops under the command of a colonel to aid the magistrate in restoring order. The commanders of the expedition were instructed to arrest the principal offenders, but not to let their men enter the village unnecessarily. They were also given a proclamation sealed by the Governor-General in which a warning and an exhortation were addressed to the gentry of the locality. But the chief of the Wu family was unable to control his younger relatives, who called to their aid all the lawless characters of a neighbouring village as well as a number of regular robbers. Then, having forced the weak and the peaceable to join in the rising, they became bold enough to march out and confront the troops. The latter remained motionless until they were attacked at close quarters, when they beat off their assailants and killed some of the fiercest

of them. After this check the insurgents retreated to their village, which they continued to guard, merely sending out secret parties from time to time to rob and plunder on the roads. The people of the district were moved to indignation and desired that an assault should be made upon the village. The memorialists, however, knew that the leaders in the insurrection were really but few in number; and they thought that, if an attack were made, these men might manage to escape, while the quiet and harmless folk would be terrified. They therefore determined that the troops should remain quiet and overawe the people till they gave up their arms and surrendered their leaders. At the same time they increased the number of the soldiers by some troops which they ordered up from Ch'aochou Fu. Alarmed at the magnitude of the force now arrayed against them, those who had come from other villages now began secretly to return to their homes, while those of the place itself who had joined in the affair unwillingly, took courage from the proclamations which were issued and dissuaded their friends from continuing the insurrection. Taking advantage of this state of things, the officials and troops succeeded in arresting or securing the surrender of twenty-nine prisoners, some belonging to the place itself and some to the adjacent villages. Of these, the most important offenders, six in number, were taken to Huichou Fu for trial. The remainder having been examined and found not to have actually fought against the troops were merely flogged and then allowed to be released on bail. The arrest was further effected of five or six other men who were more or less implicated in the murder of the gentleman, as above narrated. These were reserved for trial by the magistrate. Rewards also have been issued for the apprehension of certain other offenders who have so far escaped. The village fort was built many years ago for the protection of the place; but on account of its misuse in the present instance, orders have been given for it to be raised to the ground; and the people have surrendered about two hundred fire arms which were in their possession. The river dam belonging to the Wu clan has been reduced to its original dimensions. They may maintain it as it is, but they must not increase it or impede the water-way. In closing this report the memorialists state that perfect tranquillity prevails again, and every effort will be made to discover and arrest the missing offenders.

FRONTIER DEFENCE FUNDS.

The Canton province has been required in the past year to furnish Tls. 200,000 for military expenditure on the frontiers. The Governor-General announces that he is now paying the last instalment of this amount, namely Tls. 40,000. The money has been delivered to native bankers, who have given bills of exchange for the amount. The bills have been entrusted to an officer who will proceed to Peking by sea, and who, as soon as he has cashed them, will hand the money to the Board of Revenue.

17th January.

REMISSION OF ARREARS OF TAXES IN YUNNAN.

In the Prefecture of Shunning there are a number of petty districts near the Burmese frontier, governed by hereditary native headmen. One of these districts is called Menglien, and pays a yearly tax to the government of about fifty-six taels, for what may be called 'commutation of *corvée*.' But of late years Menglien has suffered greatly from banditti, and during the last ten years has been able to produce but little of the tax money, so that the arrears have gradually crept up to three hundred taels and over. The Spring before last the place was visited by a fresh calamity in the form of fire, which destroyed the official residence of the headman and the homes of six hundred families. The headman borrowed money and succoured the poor people in their distress, but his resources are so much strained that he has no means of paying the taxes, for which by custom he himself is responsible to the Chinese Government. Under these circumstances the Governor of Yunnan prays that the above mentioned arrears may be remitted.—*Granted*.

INSPECTION OF TROOPS IN TIBET.

The Imperial Resident in Tibet represents that it is his duty this year to proceed to Further Tibet for the purpose of inspecting the three detachments of troops there and visiting the various forts. But, having received telegraphic instructions to repair to the frontier in order to take up the transaction of certain frontier business, he is unable to go and inspect the troops. He has therefore despatched Major Yü Lich'eng, who is well versed in military matters, to perform that duty on his behalf.—*Noted*.

18th January.

YELLOW RIVER.—BREACH CLOSED.

Last August the Yellow River made a breach in its embankment at a place called Paimao Fen in the district of Huimin in Shantung. The Governor of Shantung proceeded to repair the bank, and has now reported that the gap was closed on the 2nd of the current month. His Majesty the Emperor publishes a Decree, declaring that the rapidity with which the task was completed entitles those engaged in it to their appropriate reward. A very large list follows of remissions of penalties, promotions, gifts of higher buttons, and so on.

MOVEMENTS OF DALAI LAMA.

As has already been reported to the Emperor, on the 13th of June His Highness the Dalai Lama quitted Lassa to take up his residence on the Silobu mountain. On the 17th of October His Highness left the mountain and came back to the city, being escorted on the journey by a body of Chinese troops. As soon as he had returned, he was visited by the Grain Commissary on behalf of the Imperial Resident, who was away at the frontier on special service. The Commissary has reported that all was well with the Lama; and the Resident has desired him to pay every attention to His Highness's wants.

19th January.

DECREE.

The superlative goddess of the most August Empress Dowager is brightly manifest, and Her comprehensive foresight benefits the whole race. By ceaseless diligence within Her Palace she secures the peace of the entire realm. Since Our accession to the Throne We have in respectful attendance constantly received Her admirable instructions. With great gladness We perceive Her gracious Majesty in robust health and cheerful spirits. In the year 1894 Her Majesty will happily attain the illustrious age of sixty years, and it will be Our duty at the head of the officials and people of the whole Empire to testify our delight and pray for blessings. It is necessary to depute high officials to prepare the proper code of etiquette and to arrange the ritual ceremonies. We hereby appoint Prince Li, Prince Ch'ing, the Grand Secretaries O Lo Ho Pu, Chang Chih-wan, and Fu K'un, the Presidents of the Board of Revenue Hsi Ching and Weng T'ung-ho, the Presidents of the Board of Ceremonies K'un Kang and Li Hung-tao, the President of the Board of War Hsi Keng-shên,

the Presidents of the Board of Works, Sung Kuei and Sun Chia-nai, to superintend the propitious celebration of Her Majesty's birthday. Let these Princes and officials in conjunction with the Boards of Revenue, of Ceremonies and of Works and the Imperial Household with all reverence make thorough search of ancient records and submit for our approval in due season their proposals for the glorious observances of the great event.

20th January.

MEMORIAL FROM IK'O T'ANG AH, GOVERNOR OF TSISHAR.

The Governor represents that the prefect of Hulan, Pi Liang, who had accepted paper money in payment of taxes, and had in consequence been deprived of his button and ordered to exchange the notes for hard cash within a certain time, has now carried out these instructions, and he requests that his button be restored. It was found some time ago that the prefect, on account of the scarcity of money in his district had collected the government ground rents partly in paper notes, to the amount of 120,000 *tiao* (strings of cash). He was punished as above mentioned. He subsequently reported that by great exertions he had obtained cash for half this amount, and begged for an extension of time to collect the remainder. Ready money was so scarce that it had been quite impossible to get more. He was granted six months' extension by Imperial sanction, and now reports the conversion of the whole collection of paper money into cash.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the Board concerned take note.*

(Translator's note. In the Hulan district a great quantity of opium is produced and takes the place of money in many of the trade transactions of the neighbourhood.)

POSTSCRIPT MEMORIAL FROM THE GOVERNOR OF TSISHAR.

The expectant Prefect, Yüan Ta-hua, in charge of the Mines at Moho, reports that as he was preparing his list of officers to be recommended for rewards he received a private letter from Ying Shou, a clerk in the Governor's *yamen* at Tsitsihar and Assistant Controller of Mining Affairs, asking that his brother's name, Captain Ying Chih, might be entered among the others. The letter did not give particulars of Ying Chih's career, nor did it state what kind of reward he should be recommended for. As Yüan Ta-hua did not know whether the Tsitsihar Mining Office had employed Ying Chih for some special

work, he merely entered his name as requested without particulars. Memorialist finding that Ying Chih had not been employed by the Mining Office took his name off the list, and on questioning the clerk Ying Shou, perceived by his evasive answers that he had intended a downright fraud. Such an attempt to vitiate the system of rewards for merit cannot be endured, and memorialist has summarily dismissed the clerk in question. The Captain Ying Chih, having been found on examination to be ignorant of his brother's action in the matter, will be dealt with by memorialist himself.—*Rescript: Let it be as proposed. Let the Board of Civil Office take note.*

21st January.

The whole of this day's *Gazette* is taken up with the Acting Governor of Shansi, Hu P'in-chih's report upon the charge made by the Manchu General of Kueihuach'eng against the local prefect of extortion and cruelty (*Vide Gazette* of 13th January for Decree). In a postscript memorial, the Acting Governor speaks very strongly against the Manchu General for meddling in petty law cases which should be left to the local Chinese officials.

He says: The Banner Commanders have legally nothing to do with local lawsuits, but at Kueihuach'eng and the neighbourhood in all international cases they calmly rule proceedings, and the Manchu General even concerns himself with the affairs of Chinese traders. In former times, with the exception of international cases of great gravity such as murder and robbery, which were tried jointly by Tumed Mongol officials and a Chinese official, all legal proceedings were left to the local Chinese officials, but nowadays in every trivial case brought before the prefect the Mongol party petitions the General, and the General, however small the affair, deposes an official to hold a joint trial. The Mongol official so deputed, without regard to right or wrong favours his own people in everything, with the sole view to his private gain, and malpractices of all kinds arise. The former Governor of Shansi, Chang Chih-tung, obtained permission from the Throne to arrange these matters on a proper basis, and all international lawsuits should be tried by the prefects of the districts. The whole country this summer was afflicted by drought and Mongol ruffians took every opportunity of committing robberies. They were, indeed, backed up by military officers, colonels and adjutants, and incited to seize the peoples'

camels and grain boats. Although memorialist gave strict orders for the punishment of such offenders, the prefects did not dare to incur the enmity of the General, and shirked their duty. The poor people could obtain no redress for their wrongs and their pent-up wrath might have led to disturbances such as occurred at Ch'a-pang. Memorialist and his subordinates in great anxiety took remedial measures, but such was the state of affairs that the best men were afraid to tackle the difficulty. If then for merely punishing a Mongol local ruffian the prefect Chang Hsin-t'ai lost his position, what prefect will be willing in future to properly fulfil his duties? The Mongol officers will grow more overbearing day by day, and the roughs will laugh at the law.

Memorialist, shallow as may be his mind, would never think of advancing these views merely because the General had blamed a district official, but such a state of affairs as has been depicted concerns deeply this government and the livelihood of the people, and he must speak out. He requests that orders be given to the General to leave all international cases, not of the serious nature of murder or robbery, to the local Chinese officials. For Decree see *Gazette* of 13th January.

(Translator's note.—In the Decree the word "not" was omitted in the last sentence, evidently by mistake.)

22nd January.

A PEKING OFFICIAL DENOUNCED.

One of the Censors, whose name has not been made public, recently denounced to the Emperor an officer named Hsüeh Chün, who is on the Grand Secretariat staff, and son of a man in high position, namely Hsüeh Yun-sheng, Vice President of the Board of Punishments. Hsüeh Chün was accused of dissolute behaviour, of consorting with men of bad character, and of undertaking to obtain promotions for people or the successful settlements of their lawsuits. One Tu Ch'üan, a petty official, was specially mentioned as his particular ally and confidant. Two officers of the highest rank were deputed by the Emperor to enquire into the truth of these allegations. Hsüeh Chün appeared before them, denied all acquaintance with Tu Ch'üan, declared that his time was entirely taken up with his office work, that he had no friends except persons of high character and position, and demanded that any one who had anything against him should come forward and say it. His porter's register of visitors was searched,

and his servants gave evidence which was entirely in his favour. Tu Ch'üan moreover corroborated him in saying that there was no acquaintance between them. The inquisitors therefore feel bound to report to the Emperor, that nothing has been discovered to the discredit of Hsüeh Chün. With Tu-ch'üan the case is different. His admissions, though not direct confessions of guilt, are such as to render it not improbable that he is a busybody and intriguer. Moreover, being a provincial official, he had no business to be in Peking at all. It is therefore recommended that he be punished and sent home—*Decree issued previously*.

SUPPRESSED OF "KOLAO HUI" IN YUNNAN.

The Yunnan Viceroy requests rewards for certain officials in that province, who have distinguished themselves in arresting important members of the *Kolao Hui*. In a previous report he described the capture and punishment of several leaders of the society. Though the warning thus given had the effect of making most of their followers repent and become loyal subjects again, still some of the more hardened offenders, who escaped when the hue and cry first began, have crept back into the province and recommenced their evil ways. A man of this sort was taken in Lop'ing Chou, where he had been swearing in members of the brotherhood, and then with their assistance plundering the people round. In P'ing-i Hsien six *Kolao Hui* were arrested on the Kueichou frontier, after a sharp conflict in which more than ten of the constables were wounded. A number of flags and tickets were seized at the same time, and the prisoner confessed to the commission of numberless crimes. In Hsüntien a man long known as a rebel was captured after making a desperate resistance. He was found to be so severely wounded, that he was summarily beheaded on the spot without being reserved for examination. Besides the above, there have been other cases in other districts, which, however, were not remarkable enough to be worthy of special mention.

23rd January.

DISTRESS IN SHANSI.

The Governor of Shansi has addressed the Emperor several times during the past year with reference to the failure of the harvests in various parts of the province. He now reports that the thorough enquiries which have been held show that there is distress varying indeed in its

degree in more than fifty districts and sub-prefectures, the worst suffering being in the north of the province and the region beyond the Great Wall. In these localities the people are in a terrible condition, and are finding themselves obliged to leave their homes. It is absolutely necessary that measures be taken for their relief during the winter and spring. The adjacent country is all poor and has but little corn stored, while the neighbouring parts of the adjoining provinces, namely Chihli and Shensi, are separated by mountain ranges which are hard to traverse. The memorialist has therefore determined to purchase corn in the great grain-producing tract round Ninghsia Fu in Kansu, whence it can easily be carried down the Yellow River in boats. He has already sent Tls. 100,000 to Ninghsia; but the corn cannot arrive till the river opens in spring. In the meanwhile recourse must be had to the public granaries of different denominations; and in the districts where these are exhausted, the authorities must borrow from other places which may be better supplied. If this source fails, there remain the military stores belonging to the army. On account of the reductions in the number of soldiers and other causes a certain quantity of food material has been accumulated and has not yet been sold. For the moment the memorialist proposes to let this be made use of as it may be required. He will also issue silver which the local authorities will change into cash and distribute among the people. He feels assured that, the need at the moment being so urgent, he need not be bound by the ordinary regulations.

24th January.

MISCONDUCT OF A EUNUCH.

The Censor Chiang Shih-fen has reported to the Emperor that one day last summer when Hsüeh Yun-sheng, who is Vice-President of the Board of Justice, was in one of the official waiting rooms attached to the Imperial Palace, one of the Palace eunuchs, who is called Chin Chiu, went up to him and tendered to him a document, which in spite of repeated solicitations, Hsüeh Yun-sheng refused to receive. It is said that the paper referred to some lawsuit about land. The same eunuch, adds the Censor, is also reported to have addressed himself in a similar manner to President Kuei-heng, but, whether it was successfully or not, the Censor states that he does not know. His Majesty commands Kuei Heng and Hsüeh Yun-sheng to furnish him with an exact account of what occurred.

GIFT TO A MONGOL PRINCE.

According to a report made by the Mongolia Office, the Prince of Aokhan Mongols represents that the rebels last year destroyed all the buildings belonging to his domain, namely a Princess's mausoleum, his ancestral tombs, his temple and his own residence; being without means to restore them, he makes a humble appeal to the imperial benevolence. His Majesty is aware how the Prince and his tribe suffered at the hands of the rebels, and feels great compassion for him. He bestows upon the Prince a sum of ten thousand taels and bids him repair the Princess's mausoleum without delay.

ESCAPE OF CRIMINALS IN FORMOSA.

The Emperor orders that the Gaol Warden at Aoping in Formosa be immediately arrested and placed on his trial for permitting the escape of four prisoners who were under his charge.

MURDER IN DEFENCE OF MOTHER.

The Governor of Chinese Turkestan reports the sentence passed on a man found guilty of murder. The peculiarity of the case consists in the fact that the crime was committed by the offender in defence of his mother. In the district of Kashgar there was a farmer named Eli, who had a young brother called Maimisi. One day last spring the latter was herding sheep and let them eat the young shoots of some trees belonging to a neighbour named Achmet. Achmet called out to him to drive them away, but he paid no attention. The man therefore took a switch and threatened him with it, but did not actually strike him. Going home he complained to his mother, who came out and commenced to rail at Achmet. The altercation went on till the man and woman clutched hold of each other. Eli heard what was going on and hurried up to help his mother. He called out to Achmet to let go; but Achmet would not do so and abused him for taking part in the quarrel. Eli, who was afraid that his mother would be hurt, picked up a stake and struck Achmet with it. A friend then came up and separated them: but Achmet was so much hurt that he died some hours afterwards. Eli was arrested and the facts of the case were found to be as above described. Having stated the above particulars, the Governor proceeds to quote the law applicable to the case. When a woman commences a quarrel with any one and her son comes to help her, the code declares that, if he commits homicide in so doing, the

ordinary penalty will be inflicted. Eli is therefore sentenced to be strangled after imprisonment, which is the regular punishment for taking life in a broil. For commencing an altercation which led to such lamentable results, the mother is condemned to receive a flogging; but, as being a woman, she is entitled to commute her punishment.—*Referred to the Board of Punishments.*

MURDER OF A WIFE, HER LOVER AND HIS MOTHER.

In the district of Wensu in Turkestan there was a farmer named Jussuf. He was married, and for some time lived happily with his wife; but after a while he had reason to suspect that her affections had been seduced by a neighbour. He taxed her with this, but she stoutly denied it. For the future however he kept a strict guard over her. In the spring of last year she went to pay a visit to her mother, and the husband, though he made many attempts could not get her to come home again. One evening he saw the suspected neighbour going towards his mother-in-law's house, and, his suspicions being aroused, he followed him secretly. From a hiding place he saw his wife sitting down with the man; and he heard his mother-in-law say, 'come again to-morrow night.' There could be now no doubt in the case; and as he walked home he determined to catch them in the act and be revenged upon them. Next evening about ten o'clock, he armed himself with a hoe and went to his mother-in-law's house, where he heard the couple laughing and joking inside. Breaking down the door he rushed in to seize them. The man tried to escape, but he struck him down with one blow of the hoe, and killed him with another while on the floor. Then turning upon his wife he served her in a similar manner. The mother rushed at him and grappled with him in a mad fury; upon which, in his anger against her for her connivance in the adultery, he conceived the idea of killing her too. Having done so, he took the heads of the guilty couple and went off. The affair was reported to the authorities and Jussuf was put upon his trial. According to the Governor's finding, the guilty couple having been caught in the act and killed immediately, no notice need be taken of their deaths. But with regard to the mother-to-law, the case is different. For the intentional murder of an ordinary person, the penalty laid down is that of decapitation after imprisonment.

And, according to a new statute promulgated by the Board of Punishments eight years ago, if a son slays a parent whose conduct has been such as to forfeit all claim to natural affection, the penalty shall be the same as for killing an ordinary person. By encouraging her daughter's adultery the mother in this case had certainly come within the above clause; and Jussuf is therefore sentenced to branding and decapitation after imprisonment. But there was a further provision in the new statute, namely that, if in such a case as aforesaid there should be any really extenuating circumstances, the memorial which reports it should state them for the consideration of the Emperor when the sentence is revised. The memorialist thinks that the present case is one which comes within the said further provision.—*Referred to the Board of Punishments.*

25th January.

FUNDS FOR KUEICHOU MINES.

The Government of Szechuan has been required this year to furnish the province of Kueichou with a sum of Tls, 120,000, to be used as capital in developing the lead mines in that province. The money was to be taken from the funds which would otherwise have been sent to Peking. The Governor-General reports that the whole amount has now been duly forwarded to Kueichou.

26th January,

DECREE.

The Censor Chiang Shih-fên having accused the high officials of the Board of Punishments, the President, Kuei Hêng, and the Vice-President, Hsüeh Yün-shêng, of receiving directions from a eunuch with regard to public business, we commanded the two officials named to make a full report upon the subject.

Kuei Hêng reports that no eunuch has given him any directions with regard to a lawsuit respecting land.

Hsüeh Yün-shêng reports that one day last summer, while in attendance at the West Gate of the Palace, a man offered to him a paper which he refused to accept. The man made off at once and the incident passed so quickly he had no time to ask his name.

As Kuei Hêng and Hsüeh Yün-shêng report with reference to this charge of the Censor, in the one case that nothing of the sort has occurred, in the other that

there was no opportunity to ascertain particulars, we hereby command that no further action be taken in the matter. Should cases of this kind occur in future, let the high officials concerned prefer circumstantial accusations and let the legal punishments be inflicted.

THE FLOODS IN SHANTUNG.

(2) The Governor reports the closing of the breach of the Yellow River at Paimaofên in the Wuting district (about half-way between Chinanfu and the Gulf of Pechili) and recommends for rewards the officials who have distinguished themselves in the task. In the *Gazette* of 24th November 1892 a Decree was published granting rewards to some of the officials concerned in the closing of breaches of the river further to the west and directing the Governor to await the completion of the work at Paimaofên when he could make a list of all the officials whom he wished to recommend on account of the river works.

Memorialist represents that the breach at Paimaofên was by far the most difficult to close. It was situated at a bend and the opposite bank having silted up the whole force of the stream came through the breach. The usual means for closing it were adopted. The weather became suddenly cold, the river was full of floating ice, and the boats engaged in the work of embanking suffered much injury. Between the 18th and 21st December 1892 the river rose 5 feet 5 inches, and great hummocks of ice came floating down. The renewed embankment was in great danger, happily averted by strenuous exertions. The breach at this time was 280 feet wide, and the water flowing through was from 30 feet to 40 feet in depth. The new channels for the stream were opened up and the ends of the new embankment pressed on. As the opening narrowed the water rose; but regardless of difficulty and danger the officers and men went on, and on the 2nd January 1893 the ropes from the two ends were joined and the breach was closed. By the 6th January the work was completed. The sum of Tls. 580,000 has been expended on this breach. Memorialist is of opinion that the conduct of the officers and men engaged in the work has been most praiseworthy, and considering the serious nature of the overflow the expenses have been kept down to a minimum. He gives a long list of recommendations for rewards.—*Decree granting his requests issued in Gazette of 18th January.*

27th and 28th January.

No papers of interest.

29th January.

BRIGANDS ROUGHLY HANDLED IN KIRIN.

The Governor of Kirin reports that last October a pawnbroker's shop in a settlement near Petuna was plundered by a band of between forty and fifty men, who broke into the house by force and killed one of the shopmen. A detachment of troops, however, pursued the robbers, caught them up, and in the fight which ensued killed eight of them, besides taking one alive and capturing a number of horses and firearms. The rest escaped in the darkness. Later seven more of the brigands were arrested and above twenty shot. A quantity of their plunder was at the same time recovered and duly restored to the owner. The prisoners were all tried and executed. By the Governor's directions a combined attack was also made on another band, whose retreat had been discovered in the mountains near Wuch'ang-t'ing. This expedition met with similar success, a number of the robbers being killed and one captured. The memorialist thinks that on account of the energetic and successful measures taken after the robbery of the pawnshop, the local authorities may be excused the penalties to which they are liable for their remissness in allowing it to occur.—*Approved.*

RESISTANCE TO CHANGES IN LIKIN.

The Governor of Kirin states that the two great commercial entrepôts in that Province are the cities of Kirin and Ch'angch'un. The likin, which is very light, was formerly collected by the merchants themselves. But this plan was found not to work well, as the merchants by various expedients evaded levying the proper amount. It was therefore determined that there should be official Likin Offices established according to the ordinary system. The Kirin merchants submitted to the alteration; but those at Ch'angch'un have made vehement opposition to it, threatening that, if it were enforced, they would straightway "close the market." Though all the merchants have nominally joined in the conspiracy, it has been ascertained that the ringleaders are only about twenty in number and the remainder are really indifferent. It is impossible for the Government to submit to such subversion of its authority. As a first step therefore the Governor has sent General Ming Shun, who knows the place and people well, to use his influence with the refractory merchants.

and persuade them to behave properly ; but if they should persist in their opposition, the memorialist will be forced to visit the principal leaders with the full rigour of the law.—*Noted.*

REVISION OF DEATH SENTENCES.

The Censor Wen Yü addresses the Emperor with reference to the revision of the sentences of death passed on criminals throughout the Empire. According to the law, it appears, when the reports on such cases reach the Board of Justices from the provinces, they are first examined by the Legal Offices, and are then sent with copies of the principal evidence to each of the great Departments of the Government. The Chief Ministers of the Departments afterwards meet in the Palace, discuss the different cases and make their recommendations to the Emperor. There is a special procedure with regard to capital offences occurring in Peking itself. The sentences are first considered by the Board of Justice, and then reconsidered by a high commission specially appointed. After which the findings and evidence are sent, like those from the Provinces, to the Great Departments. The object of all these precautions is of course to carry out the Emperor's regard for the sanctity of human life. Whether a condemned man be recommended for a reprieve or not, depends on the careful examination of the evidence in his case. But how can a Minister bestow this care, when the documents only reach him a day or two before the time of the meeting ; especially as the cases from the provinces are nearly two thousand in number and those from Peking amount to some scores ? Thus, in the past autumn there was the man Pao Huan, condemned for abducting a Mrs. Yung. It was only by the protests of a Censor that his case was reconsidered and his name placed among those sent to the Emperor as perhaps to be reprieved. Otherwise, he would have been dead long before this. The remedy which the memorialist proposes is that the evidence and findings be placed in the hands of all the Ministers at least ten days before the date of meeting and discussion.—*Decree issued previously.*

30th January.

POOR RELIEF ROUND PEKING.

The Emperor has already caused a great deal of money and grain to be appropriated this winter for the benefit of the poor in the Metropolitan Prefecture. For the relief of distress there in the coming spring,

he now makes a further grant of 40,000 piculs of rice from the government granaries in Peking.

SUICIDE OF AN OFFICIAL.

It was recently reported to the Governor of Honan that an officer serving in that province had committed suicide. The deceased was an expectant magistrate, a native of Szechuan, who had been attached for duty to the staff of the Prefect of Nanyang Fu. The Governor gave instructions to the Treasurer and Chief Justice to hold an investigation regarding the circumstances of the case. They state as the result of their enquiries that the deceased was suffering from an abscess under his right ear on account of which he was obliged to take sick leave. The pain from the sore was so intense that he passed the night in shrieking and groaning. In despair of ever recovering, he told his family that he should make an end of himself, as he could not endure the suffering. For the time they dissuaded him ; but afterwards in spite of their watchfulness he managed to get hold of a knife and cut his throat. Under these circumstances the memorialist is of opinion that there is no blame attaching to any one.

MORE DISTRESS IN KIRIN.

The Governor of Kirin has recently been inspecting troops in the North of the Province. He has already reported the existence of distress in certain localities, but by personal observation he finds it far more widely spread than he had imagined. The principal cause of it was the damage done by the early frosts in the middle of September. He does not suppose that the local authorities intentionally concealed the state of affairs ; but he thinks they were unable to estimate accurately the failure in the harvest on account of the very unequal degree in which the different localities suffered. Some got good crops while some close by would get none at all. He has no funds except a sum of a hundred thousand taels from the taxes on native opium, which was ordered to be set apart for the relief of distress in Heilungkiang. In the default of any available money belonging to Kirin he proposes to apply Tls. 30,000 from this source for the benefit of the sufferers above mentioned.—*Approved.*

31st January.

OFFICIAL ENQUIRY IN ANHUI.

The Governor of Anhui states that during the year just closed the regular triennial inquiry should have been held concerning the character and capabilities of all the officials in the province. But it has been

impossible to perform this duty before the end of the year, as the new Provincial Treasurer, who should conduct the enquiry, only arrived at his post late in the autumn; while, as the papers had not all come to hand, it was equally out of the power of his temporary predecessor to complete the task during his period of office. As the law permits in such cases, it is requested that an extension of three months may be granted for the holding of the scrutiny.—*Approved.*

1st February.

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER'S SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY.

A Decree from the Emperor announces that he has received the Empress Dowager's instructions concerning the celebration of her sixtieth birthday, which will occur in the course of the next year to this. Her Majesty says that thanks to the protection of Heaven and the care of former Emperors she has attained her present age in happiness and good health. She does not wish to seem to show pride by declining the demonstrations of affection offered by the Emperor and the people. But though peace prevails throughout the Empire, still the condition of its inhabitants is such as to require that their resources be carefully nourished; and therefore, whenever the occasion arises for congratulatory festivities, Her Majesty most strongly impresses upon the Emperor the necessity of avoiding wastefulness. By carrying out this rule the Emperor will advance the prosperity of the country and the people, thus bringing to Her Majesty the greatest possible gladness, far greater than could be secured by presents and such things. For the approaching celebration the Ministers concerned will request special instructions wherever the regulations require them to do so. In other matters they must practise the strictest economy, a course which will be in accordance both with Her Majesty's tastes and with the interests of the people at large. On this occasion Her Majesty commands that there shall be no offering of the customary presents of silks and other things, by the Ministers, Provincial Governors, Commanders-in-Chief and Generals. During the past year special sums were given from the privy purse for the relief of the poor in the metropolitan Prefecture of Shuntien Fu. Her Majesty commands that an annual donation of twenty thousand taels be made to them in future from the same source. For the year of the celebration she bestows a similar sum upon the poor of each province throughout the Empire and desires

that the high authorities take charge of its distribution.

CHARGE OF IMPROPRIETY AGAINST A EUNUCH.

A few days ago a Decree noticed a charge which had been brought against one of the eunuchs of the Palace. A certain Censor alleged that a eunuch named Chin Chiu tried to present a paper to Hsüeh Yun-sheng, Vice President of the Board of Justice, but that officer refused to receive it. It was said that the paper concerned some lawsuit about land. It was also said that the eunuch similarly approached Kuei Heng, who is President of the same Board; but with what success, the Censor could not tell. The Emperor commanded the two officers in question to give a full account of what took place.

Their memorials in reply are now published. Hsüeh Yun-sheng reports that one morning last summer he was in one of the official waiting-rooms at the Palace, when a man entered and after saying that he was one of the eunuchs, tendered a paper to the memorialist. He indignantly refused to receive it, and the man then went away. In the hurry of the moment he forgot to ask the man his name, and therefore he did not trouble His Majesty with a report of the occurrence. Further as he did not receive the paper, and as some scores of cases are sent every month from the different Government Departments to the Board of Justice for trial, he has no idea to what suit it may have referred.

Kuei Heng declares that none of the official posts which he holds bring him into any connection with the eunuchs of the Palace, except that they have to pass his name in when he comes to Court on duty. Beyond what is required for this he has never exchanged a word with any of them, and he is not acquainted with any of their names. He certainly does not know whether such a man as Chin Chiu exists. Nor has any eunuch ever approached him concerning any lawsuit about land. He did not see the occurrence narrated about Hsüeh Yun-sheng, and he is inclined to think from the time mentioned that it must have taken place when he was absent on duty at the Eastern Tombs.

REWARDS FOR SAVING LIFE AT SEA.

The Governor of Shantung requests promotion for the sub-prefect of Ninghai Chou and the two officials in charge of the Life-saving Station in that district. In the year 1891 these officers rendered assistance to four junks and the steamer *Moli*,

(Marie) which were wrecked either by the violence of storms or by stranding in a fog. They thus saved one hundred and seventeen lives and more than sixty per cent. of the cargoes, as was duly reported and verified at the time.—*Request granted.*

DAMAGE BY STORM TO SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung has received reports of damage done by a storm in the districts of Shoukuang, Lëan, Ch'angi, Weihien and Liching. It appears that on the 23rd of last November there was a violent north-east wind accompanied by heavy rain. The tide suddenly rose twenty feet, and many villages on the coast were inundated. Some of the poor people who had not time to escape were drowned, and a good many boats were lost at sea. Steps have been taken for the issue of relief, and orders given to stop the collection of any taxes which may not yet have been paid.

TEMPLE TO TWO TARTAR GENERALS.

The Viceroy at Nanking represents that a large number of the gentry at Yangchow request permission to build a temple in memory of Tushinga, late Military Governor of Shengking, and of Fuminga, who held a similar post in Kirin. These two Tartar officers, who afterwards occupied the above-mentioned high positions in Manchuria, first won distinction on the banks of the Yangtze in the days of the Taiping Rebellion. The years 1861 and 1862 were a very critical period for the Empire. Both Nanking and Soochow were in the hands of the Taipings, who were trying to penetrate by the line of the Grand Canal into the country to the north of the Yangtze. Yangchow thus had to bear the brunt of their attacks and the army which successfully defended it in many fights was commanded by General Tushinga. At the beginning of 1864 Tushinga was despatched to north-western China, to take part in the Mahomedan war. He was succeeded at Yangchow by Fuminga, who displayed similar capacity as a General, and afterwards, when the tide of war turned, crossed the river and took a leading part in the advance southwards of the Imperial forces.—*Granted.*

2nd February.

TROUBLE IN YUNNAN.

Wang Wên-shao, Governor-General of Yunnan and Kweichow, and T'an Chün-p'ei, Governor of Yunnan, report that they have dealt with a certain wizard priest who was stirring up trouble in one of the native rulers' districts, and they re-

commend various officers for rewards in connection with the affair. In August 1892 a priest practising magic arts appeared in the district of Lasa, (marked as Latha on maps, about 15 miles south of Santa, latitude 24° 26' N., long. 97° 52' E.) in the Momein prefecture in Yunnan, and incited the ignorant people to band themselves together and disturb the peace of the country. Wang Wên-shao despatched the Brigadier-General Chang Sung-lin with troops, who seized and executed the priest Mên To-la and his followers, and restored tranquillity to the frontier. (Here follows a list of officers recommended for rewards). *Decree.*—Let the native ruler of Nantien, Tiaotingkuo be awarded the decoration of the single-eyed peacock's feather, let the native ruler of Kanngai, (Meungla) Tiaoyingting, be awarded a higher grade of the Bât'uru distinction, and let the native ruler of Santa, Tiaosü-juchih, be awarded the rank of Colonel, in recognition of their exertions. The native ruler of Lasha, Kaitingyüan, is stupid and incompetent, and has shown great carelessness all through this trouble, let him be instantly dismissed from his post. The native ruler of Husa (Hotha), Lait'ienfu, though a very near neighbour of Latha, took no notice of what was happening, let him be deprived of his button as a punishment and warning. Let the Board concerned take note. The list of officers is attached hereto.

MEMORIAL FROM THE MONGOLIAN SUPERINTENDENCY.

The Ministers of State of this Department present to His Majesty the petition of the Prince of the Ao-Khan tribe of Mongols, Ta-mu-lin-ta-êrh-ta-k'o, praying for help in repairing his ancestral tombs, *yamên*, etc., destroyed by the rebels in the neighbourhood of Jêhol in the autumn of 1891. The Prince states that the tomb of the Imperial Princess, the daughter of the Imperial ancestor canonised as the Emperor T'ai Tsung (came to the Manchurian throne in A.D. 1537), who was given in marriage to his ancestor, and all the tombs of his ancestors were opened by the rebels and the contents scattered. His grief and wrath are terrible. His *yamên* and the possessions of his whole tribes having been destroyed, he is destitute in life of a dwelling for his body and in death of a place of repose for his spirit. He represents that the necessity for immediate repair of the tombs, the ancestral hall, temple, and *yamên*; but for this an expenditure of several tens of

thousands of taels is required and he is absolutely without funds.

Decree previously issued, granting Tls. 10,000. (*Vide Gazette of 24th January.*)

3rd February.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Governor of Peking respectfully presents a drawing of the Spring Ox. This Ox, a drawing of which is presented to the Emperor, is supposed to be offered as a sacrifice to agriculture, it is made of reeds and stuffed with various cereals, is carried in procession at the ceremony of "meeting the Spring," and solemnly whipped to pieces.

MEMORIAL FROM LIU PING-CHANG, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF SZECHUAN, REQUESTING PERMISSION TO INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF ASSOCIATE EXAMINERS FOR PROVINCIAL GRADUATES AT CHINGTU.

It appears that the number of candidates actually examined on these occasions has been of late years as many as 18,000. There are only 12 Assistant Examiners to deal with the enormous mass of papers written by these students. The number of degrees conferred triennially is fixed at 80 for Chinese and 3 for Manchus. Extra degrees are conferred in proportion to the amount of subscriptions to the public funds raised on each occasion, so that the number is generally 90 or 100. The examination buildings have been repaired and added to from time to time by subscription, and there are now more than 15,000 cells. Still these are not enough for the populous and studious province of Szechuan. In each of the years 1888 and 1891, more than 20,000 students presented themselves for examination, but only 15,000 odd could be examined. It is a great hardship that men coming perhaps 2,000 li, as in the case of natives of Ningyüan or K'ueichou Fu, should be excluded for want of room and extra cells must therefore be provided. The number of candidates amounting then to 16,000 or 17,000, there are still only twelve Associate Examiners to correct their papers, and as ten days only are allowed for this work, each examiner must read 140 and more papers a day. Under such circumstances mistakes must occur, and the memorialist requests that the precedent of other Provinces may be followed and permission granted to employ two more Associate Examiners and in addition an extra receiver, sealer, and copier of essays.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies report.*

4th February.

DECREE.

The Board of Ceremonies has recommended the deceased Provincial Judge of Kueichow, Wang T'ing-lan, for the bestowal of an honorary tablet. Wang T'ing-lan having great affection for his relations built a family temple and established a free farm for the support of his connections. Such deeds have been approved from ancient times and We hereby award an honorary tablet written by our own hand. Let it be given to the Governor of Honan to deliver to the family of the deceased in token of our approbation.

DECREE.

T'ien Wo-lin (田我霖) is appointed Reader of the Grand Secretariat.

Chu Shên (朱琛) is appointed Chief Supervisor of Imperial Instruction.

RELIEF IN THE JEHOL DISTRICT.

The Viceroy of Chihli and the military Governor of Jehol report that in the districts of P'inghüan, Chiench'ang, Ch'aoyang, and Ch'ihfêng, and several Mongol Banner districts were severely ravaged by the rebels in 1891. As a first measure of relief the Viceroy Li sent from the funds of the Charity Board of Tientsin, Tls. 30,000 and 10,000 suits of wadded clothing, and reported to the Throne on 11th January, 1892. His Majesty approved the action and the Viceroy then sent in addition Tls. 20,000. Arrangements were subsequently made to supply grain to the people to plant their fields, and also to buy at Dolonnor 700 horses, at Tls. 8 a head, to be distributed to those farmers who had been robbed of all their stock. The Board of Revenue supplied Tls. 50,000, the Tientsin Charity Board collected Tls. 46,513, the General Yeh Chih-ch'ao subscribed Tls. 2,000 towards the expense of burying the dead, and the Viceroy Li as above stated provided Tls. 50,000. This makes a total of Tls. 148,513 and clothing. Of this amount Tls. 129,392 were spent in the relief of the distressed people, the expense of burying the dead being included, and the clothing was all distributed. Tls. 11,984 were spent in buying horses and seed grain. Tls. 6,649 were paid on behalf of pawnshop keepers as their taxes for the year 1891, leaving a balance of Tls. 488. The district of Ch'ihfêng being especially destitute, soup kitchens have been opened there again this winter and the balance will be devoted to this purpose. Memorialists request His Majesty's approval of the expenditure and beg that a

formal detailed account may not be required.—*Receipt: Granted. Let the Board take note.*

BOBBERY OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

Memorial from Shao Yü-lien, Governor of Formosa, reporting his investigation of the charge against Chang Wei-t'ang of converting to his own use some government sulphur, of which he had control as officer in charge of the Sulphur Works. Chang Wei-t'ang is a native of Luchou in Szechuan and was formerly magistrate of Ch'ingch'i Hsien in Kueichow. He was denounced from that post, and came to offer his services in Formosa, and was appointed deputy in charge of the North Formosa Sulphur Works. On 8th December 1891 Chang, having a quantity of sulphur refuse in the Hobé store which no one would buy, sent 500 piculs of it to Shanghai in the steamer *Cass*, and there sold it to a maker of fireworks for \$650. This amount he kept for himself. Denounced by Memorialist and given one year to refund the amount, Chang has now repaid the money. The law provides that a person who robs from the Government property entrusted to his care money or goods of Tls. 330, but not exceeding Tls. 660, in value, shall be sentenced to 100 blows and banishment. Should the stolen property be replaced within one year, all punishments below banishment for life are remitted. Memorialist accordingly proposes to remit the punishment in the present case, but as it appears that Chang is still a defaulter in regard to his accounts at Ch'ingch'i Hsien, suggests that he be sent to Kueichow in custody that the authorities of that Province may take the necessary steps to recover the amount.—*Receipt: Let the Board of Punishments report.*

5th February.

ARRIVAL OF NEW TAOTAI AT KIUKIANG.

The new Taotai at Kiukiang, a Manchu named Ch'eng-hsün, reports that he has taken over charge of his post. Though appointed on the 5th of May last, he did not arrive in the capital of Kiangsi till the 24th of December. He was desired by the Governor to proceed at once to Kiukiang, and he arrived there on the 11th of January. He makes the usual references to the steadily increasing difficulty of collecting the due amount at the native Custom-House, on account of the rivalry of the

TEMPLE TO CHANG YAO IN SHANTUNG.

The Governor of Shantung reports that in obedience to the Emperor's commands he has caused a temple to be constructed at the provincial capital to the memory of the late Governor Chang Yao. The connection of the late Governor with the Province of Shantung dates back to the year 1868, when he commanded one of the armies which freed Shantung from the presence of the Nienfei; in remembrance of this the gentry of the district gladly provided the necessary funds for the erection of the edifice. A site was selected in the north-east corner of the city, and the buildings, which consist of twenty-two rooms, were duly constructed thereon. The memorialist concludes with the customary formal request that the Emperor will ordain the performance of official services in the temple every spring and autumn.—*Request granted.*

BRIGANDS CAPTURED IN NORTHERN KIANGSU.

The Director-General of the Grain Transport reports the execution of two noted brigands, who had been troubling the people in the north-east corner of Kiangsu. One of these, named Lo Ta-huang-tsü, had formed a branch of the "turban society," whose members wear a strip of cloth round the head. When news of his doings reached the authorities, a small detachment of troops was despatched to arrest him at a place called Sant'ao in Funing Hsien. But the soldiers were surrounded by the brigands and fired upon; and it was only with difficulty that they broke through the ring and escaped. A larger force was then sent out. On arriving in the neighbourhood they found that Lo Ta-huang-tsü had just assembled a numerous body of brigands for the purpose of pillaging the country. The brigands, however, dared not face the troops; and in the flight that ensued Lo Ta-huang-tsü was captured. It was then ascertained that there was concealed in the neighbourhood another brigand chief named P'ao who had escaped, when the principal members of his band were caught some time ago. He was arrested after making a desperate resistance, and wounding with his pistols several of the soldiers. Lo Ta-huang-tsü confessed that he had committed numerous crimes of violence, had formed a society of robbers, and had even had some military uniforms made in order that he and his men might pass themselves off as soldiers. It was not considered safe to send him to headquarters, lest he should be rescued by the way. He was therefore re-examined on

the spot and then executed. The brigand P'ao, when placed on his trial made a similar confession, and was condemned to the same fate.

6th and 7th February.

DISHONEST PRACTICES AT THE GRANARIES.

A Censor presents a serious accusation against a man named Han Yü-lin. According to his statement, there has been a great deal of stealing, as well as other malpractices, at the government granaries, of late years. Some men were punished recently for this; but the general opinion, which has been loudly expressed, is that only minor offenders were caught, and the principal one escaped. Han Yü-lin, his father, and his uncle, were formerly keepers of the New Southern Granary. On account of a deficiency in the rice there judicial proceedings took place fourteen years ago, when it was officially reported that all the Han family had disappeared. Han Yü-lin, however, being a most clever rascal, managed to make things all right for himself, came back again and wormed himself into a friendship with the granary authorities. Obtaining an ascendancy over all the granary keepers, he became the regulator of their pilferings. By means of his ill-gotten wealth he even purchased the rank of magistrate and secured an official appointment at the granaries. His daring now became greater; he sold all the good rice, only issued what was dirty or mouldy to the soldiers, and is said even to have had false measures constructed. Last year a suit was brought against him by an officer whom he had caused to be beaten for objecting to his way of measuring out the grain. Last summer he had an official building pulled down and reconstructed, when he sold the valuable materials and replaced them with inferior ones. The rice given out from the New Southern Granary for the use of the soup-kitchens is so spoilt as to be unfit for food; and the unanimous curses of those who receive it are poured out against their defrauder. The Censor concludes by asking for the arrest of the man whom he denounces, or for the appointment of a High Commission to enquire into the matter. In a Decree, published previously, the Emperor ordered the Board of Revenue to make an investigation.

REWARD FOR FOUNDING A COLLEGE.

Chang Ju-hai, the new Chief Justice in Shansi, has given ten thousand *mow* of marsh and reed land, worth about Tls.

23,000, to form the endowment of a college for the two districts of Ch'ingho and Shan-yang in northern Kiangsu. The donor has already received many rewards from the Emperor and requests that no notice should be taken of his gift. It is suggested, however, that his son, who is a licentiate, should be given an appointment as secretary in one of the Boards at Peking. This promotion might have been obtained as a matter of course by a pecuniary contribution of between nine and ten thousand taels.—*Granted.*

8th February.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Emperor after business to-morrow will proceed to pay his respects to the Empress Dowager and will afterwards be present at the feast in the Tze Kuang Pavilion (to the Mongol Princes) and view the wrestling.

9th February.

Yang Ju (lately Taotai at Wuhu) returns thanks for his appointment as Expectant Metropolitan Official of the 4th rank. (In the manuscript copy of the *Gazette* the words "and Imperial Envoy" are added without mention of the country to which he is to be accredited).

DECREE.

The Censor Li Tz'ü-ming represents that the Board of Works before the edict of the Emperor respecting the 60th birthday of the Empress Dowager had been received, had already appointed 60 of its officers to superintend the preparations. This number has now been increased to 80. The reason for this manoeuvre is evident. All these nominees are to be recommended for rewards. Such a practice is strongly to be deprecated and memorialist requests that orders be given to the Heads of Boards to select their officials with due care, and to effectually prevent any favoritism. The Emperor instructs the Boards accordingly.

DECREE.

Enjoining the Boards and Provincial Authorities to exercise more discrimination in recommending officials for rewards. Great carelessness of precedents has been shown lately in this respect.

DECREE.

Enjoining the Provincial Authorities to be more thorough in their supervision of the magistrates and local officials within their jurisdiction.

DECREE.

Appointing Yüan-ch'ang (Chief Secretary, Tsungli Yamén) to be Taotai of the Hui, Ning, Ch'ih, T'ai, Kuang circuit in Anhui, (Wuhu is in the T'ai P'ing distant).

Memorial from Shao Yu-lien, Governor of Formosa, reporting the complete repression of the rebel savages in South Formosa. Memorialist reported some time since the disturbance in the Hêngch'un district by the Shê Pu Li savages and the measures taken for the punishment of the rebels. The Imperial Rescript ordered him to lose no time in rooting out the rest of the band.

The Brigadier General of Formosa, Wan Kuo-pên, and the General Chang Chao-lien were in charge of the troops. After capturing the village Pashihmo, the soldiers were quartered there, and preparations made for the capture of T'saopu. On the 2nd October last the savages made an attack upon the entrenchments, and on the 6th October the Government troops advanced upon their positions and forced them back to T'saopu. The mountain paths were most difficult and the jungle dense; the soldiers could only move in single file, and for some time despite the use of rockets, etc., the savages could not be dislodged. The leaders consulted and arranged an attack with cannon and jingals, and on the morning of the 7th October with great noise the troops rushed in and carried all before them. More than 80 savages were killed and 107 foreign guns and other weapons were seized. Four of the leaders were captured, but the chief Ling Ah Ling and his son were not taken. On the 8th October a terrible wind arose, and in a moment blew away the tents and utensils of the soldiers. The mountain streams came down in flood, sand and stones flew about and the forest trees were falling. Wan Kuo-pên and Chang Chao-lien encouraged their men to stand to their posts through two days of this tumult, and on the 11th October they were able to light fires and cook their food, and also to erect a wooden stockade. The savages having no place of shelter suffered greatly from the storm, and the troops quickly recovered themselves, and as soon as the weather permitted procured information as to the hiding place of Ling Ah-ling at Chiahsinlu. They made a sudden attack on 18th October, and Ling Ah-ling taken by surprise sought refuge in the thick jungle. He was finally captured and together with other leaders sent to the Magistrate of Hêngch'un for trial and was executed in presence of the troops.

From the 28th October to 9th November, the soldiers were engaged in hunting out the remaining rebels, many of whom were decapitated. Proper arrangements were made for the peace of the district, some of the leaders being spared and sent back into the mountains under engagement to alter the name of the "Shê Pu Li" clan to "Shan Hua" clan and to live in amity with the neighbouring Chinese. Of the soldiers and friendly natives engaged in this affair 44 men were killed in the fights with the savages, 13 were carried away by the water, and 51 were wounded. On the 6th December the troops separated to return to their various stations. Memorialist praises highly the conduct of officers and men and submits a list of recommendations for rewards.—*Decree previously issued.*

10th and 11th February.

THEFT FROM TREASURY.

The Vice-President of the Board of Revenue who is in charge of the Government Granaries at Peking reports that the sum of Tls. 1,000 has been stolen from the Treasury of one of these establishments. The guards and persons directly in charge will be severely dealt with, and a penalty will be determined for the superior officers. One of these latter pleads that he was absent on duty at the time; but the Emperor leaves it to the Civil Service Board to decide whether this is sufficient reason for excusing him.

TEMPLE IN HONOUR OF P'ENG P'ENG.

At the request of certain officials and gentlemen the Governor of Kuangai asks that the honour of a public temple may be granted to P'eng P'eng, a deceased Governor of that province. It may be remarked of this worthy that, unlike many of the high officials for whom such favours are requested, he is really a popular hero, and his exploits are at the present day represented on the Chinese stage. According to the applicants, P'eng P'eng was a native of P'u-tien in Fukien and obtained the degree of Provincial Graduate in the year 1660. He was much pressed to accept an appointment under the rebel government of Keng Ching-chung, but he firmly refused to do so. When the rebellion was crushed he became magistrate of Sanho. After receiving a present from the privy purse and being specially commended by the Emperor Kang Hsi for his uprightness and purity, he was made a Censor, then a Chief Justice, and then Governor of Kuangsi. Later he was transferred to Kuangtung, where he died. He was several times held

up as an example to other officials; and a Decree recorded the Emperor's appreciation of his bravery on a certain occasion when arming himself he leapt on his horse and went off in pursuit of some brigands. The people of Kuangsi have never forgotten him, and have special reasons for keeping him in their affectionate remembrance. He first came among them just at the time when a rebellion had been put down and the country had not recovered itself. He recommended the removal of cruel and corrupt officials; while he himself treated prisoners with mildness, reduced taxation and lightened *corvées*. He moreover obtained sanction for the institution of military examinations, which up to that time had never been held in Kuangsi; and he excited the enthusiasm of the people by inducing the Emperor to abolish the tribute sent from Kuangsi of raw copper and wrought iron, as being articles which were not produced within the limits of the province. Another measure of his was to secure the prohibition of illegal taxation; for some of the local authorities were in the habit of levying "benevolences," while others, who did not go so far as this, would either openly or by hidden methods increase the amount of the land tax which they collected. When the day arrived for him to leave his post, the weeping people sought to arrest the passage of his chair; a temple was privately built to his memory; but the petitioners pray for this there may be substituted an official edifice, where service will be performed in spring and autumn by the local authorities.—*Granted*.

DEATH OF AN INTERPRETER.

The Chinese Minister in Great Britain reports the death of Wen K'uei, an English Interpreter of the third grade. Wen K'uei was detailed for service in England at the request of the memorialist; and he had hardly arrived at his post, when he was attacked by swellings in the neck. He struggled for some time to perform his duties, but he grew worse and expired in London. The deceased originally studied in America, and after his return was nominated interpreter to the Shanghai arsenal, where he served for a long period. The memorialist was aware of his thorough acquaintance with the English language, and of the attention which he paid to western learning of all kinds, and, therefore in selecting him for his appointment, had full hopes that his abilities would prove of great utility. In pity for the sad fate of the deceased the memorialist hopes that the Emperor will be pleased to grant

for him the ordinary marks of the imperial compassion.—*Approved*.

EXECUTION OF ROBBERS NORTH OF YANGTZE.

The north-eastern part of Kiangsu at the present moment is either unusually subject to the depredations of brigands or is blessed with a more than ordinarily vigorous official in the Director-General of the Grain Transport at Huaian Fu. That officer again reports the arrest and execution of some brigands, who had been preying upon the people in the said locality. They were disbanded soldiers from Honan who had disguised themselves as traders to escape detection. When arrested they confessed to the commission of numerous robberies with violence and to fighting against the soldiers of the government. It was not thought advisable that there should be any delay in their punishment, and therefore they were summarily beheaded in accordance with the regulations.

12th and 13th February.

SUPPRESSION OF DISTURBANCE IN YUNNAN.

The Viceroy in Yunnan reports the suppression of a disturbance in the neighbourhood of Tengyueh (Momein). About a hundred miles from Tengyueh there is a native magistracy called *Lasa*. The people of the district are worshippers of Buddha. Being a good deal harassed by the surrounding savages, they are all possessed of rough weapons and their villages are protected by strong fences of live bamboo with a wide moat outside. Last July a Buddhist priest made his appearance in one of these villages which is called Mantang. He lived there about a month without doing anything strange; but at the end of it he began to practise sorcery. He claimed magic powers, saying that he could not be either drowned or hurt by fire, and gave some small exhibition of his art. The credulous natives were entirely deluded, and all hastened to make obeisance to him. Having received from them numerous presents of copper, iron, silver, rice, he set to work to construct a lofty building, which he said would be the residence of "the true man." Certain men of the place entered into treasonable relations with him; and in furtherance of their schemes it was arranged to have a grand procession in the month of October. News of this was carried to the authorities; and a detachment of troops was despatched to arrest the priest. Before they could arrive, the priest had put to death over

twenty families of people, who would not become his adherents. The affair having become thus serious, a superior officer with a larger force was sent, and the native magistrates of Nantien, Chienai and Chanta were each desired to aid him with two hundred men. In the middle of September the priest who had let his hair grow took up his position on the lofty building that he had erected. Muttering incantations he gave directions to the villagers, who, kneeling in a circle around, appeared to have lost their senses and to have become filled with frenzy. A fortnight later the troops arrived and after spending a few days in securing the neighbouring villages they turned their attention to Mantang. The approaches to the place having been strongly barricaded, there was a good deal of fighting and some loss of life before the troops could effect an entry. The priest, who had been wounded by a bullet, was caught when trying to escape secretly, while those of his followers who could get away fled to Lili and other villages near it. The priest was executed after means had been found to ascertain his identity beyond dispute. The troops next day marched to Lili, where the fugitives had barricaded themselves. Promise of pardon having failed to make them surrender, the place was captured with a certain amount of fighting.

The memorialist remarks upon the wildness of these natives and their religious enthusiasm, and states that any outburst among them is extremely dangerous; because, being so near to Burmese territory they may induce banditti from beyond the border to come and join them, or they themselves may cross the frontier and cause disturbances which will give rise to official protests. The suppression of the disorder in the present instance was managed with such promptness as to entitle to rewards the military officers employed and the native magistrates who gave their aid; but the native magistrates of Lasa and of a district close to it called Husa should be the one cashiered, and the other deprived of his button.—*Decree published separately.*

14th and 15th February.

MILITARY EXPENSES IN MANCHURIA.

The Governor-General of Fengtien reports the sum expended in his province during the first half of last year on account of pay, ration and fodder for the officers and troops under his orders. The amount is Tls. 143,185.

16th to 19th February.

DECREE.

Next year will see the 60th birthday of Her Most August Majesty the Empress Dowager. Her favours benefit the whole realm and it is fitting that the scholars of the Empire should receive some gracious recognition. Let there be extra examinations for the degree of *Ch'ü-jên* in all the Provincial capitals this year, and let there be next year a special examination for the degree of Metropolitan Graduate at the capital.

A FATAL THEATRICAL SHOW.

On the 29th November, 1892, a performance was going on in a temporary theatre erected in front of the temple of the Queen of Heaven in the village of Chinlihsü, in the district of Kaoyao, and prefecture of Ch'aoch'ing in Kuangtung. In the middle of the night the shed suddenly burst into flames. The spectators were crowded together, and jostling each other in the narrow mountain roads were unable to escape in time. To add to the difficulties of the situation a violent wind was blowing, and despite the efforts of the police officer and his men who did their utmost to rescue the people and extinguish the fire, more than 200 houses were burnt, and more than 1,000 persons, men and women, perished; some being trampled to death, others devoured by the flames. The local magistrate lost no time in visiting the scene of the disaster and in taking measures for the relief of the sufferers. Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Two Kuang Provinces, the memorialist, is of opinion that the affair, extremely distressing as it is, was purely an accident. The people of the village were following their local customs in holding a theatrical performance in honour of the Goddess; and the temporary theatre made of matting and flimsy materials having accidentally caught fire could not be extinguished.

Trustworthy deputies have been sent to the place provided with money to co-operate with the local officials in immediate measures of relief.—*Rescript: Noted.*

20th and 21st February.

REBUILDING POST HOUSES IN KIRIN.

There are two great Post Roads leading out of Kirin, one running north and the other west. Both the offices of the Superintendents and the post houses on the roads have fallen into a state of utter disrepair, having been neglected ever since the time when funds ran short in the reign of Hsien Fêng on account of the Taiping

rebellion. It is proposed to pull down and reconstruct such of the buildings as are in the worst condition. The regular estimate for the work contemplated amounts to Tls. 15,659; but after making the reductions enforced by the Board on all such expenditure, the net allowance will only come to Tls. 8,832. This sum the Governor begs to be permitted to take from the government receipts under the head of rent.—*Referred to the Board of Works.*

TRIBUTE RICE CARRIED BY GRAND CANAL.

The High Authorities for the Province of Kiangsu and the Director-General of the Grain Transport present a memorial on the subject of the Tribute Rice to be carried to Peking this year by the Grand Canal. In addition of course to the rice from the north of the Yangtze, as has been the custom for the last few years, a hundred thousand piculs of tribute rice will be sent by canal from the southern part of the Province of Kiangsu. None of it will be provided by Ch'uansha T'ing, Paoshan, or Kading, which are districts that do not produce any large quantity of grain, nor by Tanyang, where the land tax has been remitted on account of the failure of the harvest; but the other twenty-seven districts will each furnish an equal share. The quotas will be paid in money, and rice of good quality will be purchased therewith at Paoying north of Yangchow. The grain when delivered will be shipped on private boats, by which it will be conveyed to Tientsin. The delivery of the rice and the hiring of the boats will be superintended by a special officer despatched to Paoying for the purpose. As the long line of the canal is at many places obstructed by shallows and sandbanks, it is very important that proper attention should be given to the building of dams, digging of channels, opening of sluices, and such work. The Tsotais at Hsuan and Hsüehou Fu have therefore been ordered to provide funds and make the necessary preparations as far as to the frontier of Shantung. Beyond that point, the Governor of Shantung and the Director-General of the Yellow River have been requested to see that the local authorities take care to do whatever be required in the way of digging and providing boats for lighterage. When the Grain Tactai from Soochow has seen the first fleet of junks leave Shanghai with the sea-borne rice, he will hurry to Ts'ing-kiangpu, so that he may be able to attend to the opening of the locks and may see

that the officers in charge of the fleet exercise an efficient supervision over it during its progress. He will next proceed overland to Tungchow, where he will arrive in time to take delivery first of the sea-borne rice and then of that coming by the Canal.

22nd and 23rd February.

MEMORIAL FROM T'AN CHUNG-LIN.

The Governor-General of Fukien and Ch'ekiang and Director of the Foochow Arsenal, recommends for rewards those Arsenal officials who have shown merit during the last five years.

The Regulations of the Admiralty provide that such recommendations for rewards shall be made every five years. This period has now elapsed since in May, 1887, the completion of the fast ship *Chinwock'ing* at the Foochow Arsenal was reported and marks of approbation were suggested for those who had taken part in the work. In the meantime the ships *Kuangchia*, *Kuangyi*, *Kuangping*, *Kuangting*, and the steel cruiser *Niesmai* have been built, and repairs to the ships of the northern and southern squadrons and of the provinces of Ch'ekiang and Kuangtung have been executed.

The Arsenal contains ten divisions, the work is on a large scale and the number of men employed is very great. The officials have shown great zeal and ability. Memorialist was most careful in his supervision of the list of those specially recommended on account of the construction of the steel cruiser, and the number of those mentioned was not large. It would not be right, however, to entirely ignore the slightly less conspicuous merits of other officials, and memorialist therefore submits a list of names which he has selected with the utmost care.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Admiralty report upon the proposals.*

24th and 25th February.

REFUGE FOR WOMEN AT PEKING.

There is a refuge for women open during the winter months at Liangchiayuan in the northern part of Peking. Every year some four or five hundred women resort to it, and the government grants three hundred piculs of millet for their food. Five years ago there was an exceptional amount of distress occasioned by floods in the east of the province, in consequence of which the number of women in the refuge was doubled. The officers in charge represented the state of affairs to the government, and the allowance for food was increased by an addition of two hundred

piculs of millet. This year there is again an extraordinary number of women in the refuge; the stock of millet is already more than half consumed, and, unless a further supply be granted, the place cannot be kept open for the ordinary period, namely till the end of the second month. His Majesty is therefore humbly requested to sanction an additional issue of two hundred piculs, as before.—*Decree already published.*

UNLIMITED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROMOTION.

A Censor calls attention to the reckless way in which officials are nowadays recommended on the smallest grounds for promotions or other honours. The system of recommendation existed in the days of Kang Hsi and Chien Lung; but moderation was observed, and no jumping over steps was allowed. At the present time, not to speak of the buttons and ranks obtained by the comparatively higher officials, even officers of the lowest grades, by making a foreign voyage or getting employed in the Grain Transport service, find themselves after a recommendation or two in possession of a Red Button and the rank of Taotai. It is not only in the provinces that this goes on; for one sees just the same thing among the metropolitan officials. By means of some trifling piece of work a Hanlin compiler, or an Assistant Secretary of a Board jumps up half a dozen steps, to the disgust and distress of all honourable officers. As an instance of the kind of thing that goes on, the memorialist says that according to what he has heard, the Board of Works has already made out a list of from sixty to eighty persons to be recommended for promotion at the Imperial festivities, which will occur in a year's time; and the Presidents of the Board have been violently quarrelling among themselves about the names which are to be included in it. In conclusion the memorialist ventures to express his hope that orders may be given requiring all recommendations to be made in accordance with the rules in force, and that any breach of them may be severely punished.—*Decree already published.*

REWARDS FOR RIVER OFFICIALS IN SHANTUNG.

At the end of the year 1891 the Governor of Shantung reported that he would defer till the next autumn all requests for rewards to be given to officials who had distinguished themselves in repairing the embankments at points of imminent danger along the course of the Yellow River. This was approved by the Emperor, as

was also a recent request that the Governor might recommend those who had similarly done good work during the summer and autumn of 1892. The memorialist remarks that confining rivers by means of embankments was not looked upon as the best means of dealing with them in ancient times, but at the present day it has become an unavoidable measure. Above all places it is necessary in Shantung on account of the narrowness of the Yellow River's channel and the height to which its bed is raised by silting. Again, the violence of the stream makes it undermine the banks; and this necessitates the use of fascines and breakwaters, by which the width of the river is still more decreased, and the danger of breaches becomes more imminent. Whenever the season for freshets arrives, along both sides of the river for a thousand li disaster is threatened at countless points, and it can only be averted by the energy of the civil and military officers, who strive against the water with all their might. In the former of the two years, a small amount of rain having fallen in Shansi and Shensi, the affluents of the Yellow River added but little to its volume there; but in Shantung it rose to a dangerous height on account of the great quantity of water brought down by the mountain streams and poured into the narrow channel. Indeed, between the beginning of the summer and the middle of the autumn it is calculated that there were as many as eighty points of danger requiring to be instantly dealt with. Last year, however, things were much worse, the season being an extraordinary one, such as had not been seen for a very long period. Shortly after midsummer rain fell for weeks together. Reports of threatened calamity came in continuously, without intermission. Between Hotsé in the interior and Liching near the coast there were more than one hundred spots at which urgent repairs had to be executed. The officials of both services did their work bravely, exposing themselves to the fury of the waters in the darkness of the night and amid wind and rain. The hardships to which they submitted themselves were certainly not less than those of the battle field; and it is only right that the most deserving of them should be selected for rewards. The regulations prescribe that for the successful completion of urgent repairs at any point, two civil and four military officers may be recommended for the rewards granted for extraordinary labours, and the rest of those engaged for those given for ordinary service.

But on account of the very great number of officers who thus distinguished themselves in the two years, the memorialist has revised the lists with much care and has cut out very many names. Those which he has retained and which he humbly lays before the Emperor, he hopes may be granted the honours which they deserve.—*Referred to the Boards concerned.*

EXCULPATION OF THE GOVERNOR OF PEKING.

A certain Censor recently denounced the Governor of Peking for using violent language to his subordinate officials and neglecting his work instead of attending to it. Two Ministers of high rank were ordered to enquire into the truth of these charges. As they have reported to the Emperor, they find that, in the particular case mentioned against the Governor, the Sub-prefect Ho Lien-wei died of sickness, and did not commit suicide because he had been insulted by his superior. Secondly, as the registers show, there is no accumulation of documents in the Governor's Office. The Emperor therefore orders that the charge be dismissed.

RANK GIVEN TO A FRENCH PROFESSOR.

A memorial from the Viceroy at Foo-chow is to the effect that in 1881 a French Master of Arts (*Chū-ju*) named Medard was engaged to come to China as a teacher in the Arsenal school. In 1886, his term being completed, he was granted brevet rank of the fourth grade and a decoration of the second class. The same summer he was re-engaged for a further term, during which he has taken very great pains with his work, and his pupils have made good progress. The memorialist suggests a further reward should be given to M. Medard by raising him from the fourth to the third grade.—*Seen.*

PAYMENT OF LIU I-CH'EN'S DEBTS.

Some years ago the cashiered Taotai Liu I-ch'en was denounced to the Emperor by the Governor of Kiangsu as a bankrupt debtor who owed large sums both to the Government and to private persons. The Board of Revenue then represented to the Throne that the case was similar to that of Hu Kuang-yung, and that the debtor should be sent to the Board of Justice to be rigorously dealt with. As, however, he had by this time paid all his debts to Government and was reported to have made arrangements with his private creditors, it was requested that nothing should be done for the moment. Since then seven years have passed, and no one

has come forward to present any claim against him, so that his private as well as his public debts are paid. Enquiries also were made in Fukien, where he had held official appointments, and the authorities there found that he had not concealed any property in that province. Under these circumstances, as his failure took place before the Act of Grace, it is requested that he may not be sent to the Board of Justice for punishment, and it is suggested that the propriety of restoring his rank to him might be taken into consideration.—*Referred to the Board.*

2nd and 3rd March.

A CASE OF PARRICIDE IN KUANGTUNG.

The Governor-General of the Two Kuang Provinces, Li Han-chang, and the Governor of the Canton Province, Kang Yi, report a case of parricide and the execution of the criminal by the slow and painful process. Liu Kuan-mei was a salt carrier living at Têngshun Hsien (near Swatow). Early in the morning of the 5th of July last, his wife and children went to pay a visit to the wife's parents, and Liu Kuan-mei after seeing them on their way purchased some wine and meat and returned home. He and his father, Liu Chiu-chuan, made merry with the good fare and both became tipsy. The father then ordered the son to go to his work of salt carrying. The son refused, and the father not only cursed him, but proceeded to beat him with a staff. Liu Kuan-mei, still under the influence of liquor, slipped by his father, snatched the staff from his grasp, and turned to run. But the staff was of considerable length, and as he turned with great quickness, struck his father behind the left ear and felled him to the floor. The neighbours hearing the noise, rushed in, but Liu Chiu-chuan was too far gone to speak and shortly died. Liu Kuan-mei took an opportunity to disappear from the scene. His elder brother, Liu Tu-mei, was away from home in service, and his cousin Liu Ah-hsin, being old and sick, could not go to the magistrate to report the case. So the body was buried and a messenger sent for Liu Tu-mei. The magistrate, however, heard of the matter and arrested Liu Ah-hsin. Liu Tu-mei then returned and reported the case, requesting that no inquest might be held.

Investigation was made, Liu Kuan-mei arrested, sent to Canton, and there executed by the slow and painful process. Liu Ah-hsin was held excused for not reporting the affair on account of his age and infirmities. It was also decided to take

no further steps against several witnesses who did not appear to give evidence.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REWARDS FOR THE EXECUTION OF A NOTED PIRATE ON THE COAST OF CHEKIANG.

The Governor of Chékiang, Sung Chün, memorialises the Throne requesting that the recommendations for rewards for putting to death the notorious outlaw, Ma Mien Tu Jên, made by him some time since, may be adopted. Upon memorialist reporting the death of this pest of the district of T'aichou in Chékiang, His Majesty granted leave to submit the names of the civil and military officials who had taken part in putting a stop to his career.

The Boards of Civil Office and War, however, objected to the proposals made, on the grounds that the officials in question had merely done their duty and did not deserve extraordinary rewards. Memorialist proceeds to vigorously combat this view. T'aichou, he points out, is a mountainous sea coast region, and has long been the haunt of pirates. The officials in question hunt out these evil-doers both by land and sea the whole year round. Their work is trying and laborious, and their success has been recorded in memorials to the Throne. Their proper duty being the arrest of law-breakers, memorialist would not presume to recommend them for trifling services. But Ma Mien Tu Jên was a noted leader on the northern coast of T'aichou and was at the head of a large band. Had the slightest delay occurred in stopping his recent outbreak, the consequences to the public would have been most serious. The officials under notice, procuring information of his movements, pursued him by land and sea, regardless of danger in the midst of mighty waves and foaming billows. They put to death this formidable robber chief and broke up his gang. Such a feat is fully as meritorious as the suppression by regular troops of a band of rebels, and it is essential for the encouragement of similar brave deeds in these troublous times that generous rewards be granted. Memorialist has exercised great care in the selection of names and ventures to again submit the list for His Majesty's approval.—*Rescript: Let it be as proposed. Let the Boards concerned take note.*

4th and 5th March.

REMISSION OF TAXES IN KUANGSI.

The Governor of Kuangsi, Chang Lien-kuei presents a memorial requesting that

the grain and army taxes of certain districts in Kuangsi for the year 1892 may be partly remitted or deferred, according to the particular circumstances of the various places. On account of the presence of troops in the province and the war upon the frontier, the taxes of the province for some years up to 1891 were not collected in full or within the proper time, and in recognition of these favours the people should show a glad alacrity in paying the charges for 1892. Memorialist sent repeated instructions through the Provincial Treasurer to the local officials to collect the taxes with due promptitude. The district of T'aip'ing is, however, on the very frontier, and measures of frontier defence are still in progress. Ts'angwu suffered from excessive summer rains, the paddy fields were flooded and the crop of rice was small. Fuch'uan and Ho Hsien were visited by late rains and the autumn paddy was injured. Other places in the districts of Kueilin and Hsünchou have not yet recovered their former prosperity and the people are in straitened circumstances. Memorialist is therefore reluctantly compelled to beg His Majesty's consideration for the poverty of the country. The district of Yangli, in the T'aip'ing prefecture (near Lungch'ou on the Toungking frontier), has suffered most of all, and it is proposed to remit altogether one half of the taxes for 1892 and to allow the other half to be paid at the same time as the 1893 taxes. The districts of Ch'unghsan, in the T'aip'ing prefecture, and Wuhsüan, in the Hsünchou prefecture, have suffered less severely, and it is proposed to remit three-tenths of their 1892 taxes, and to allow the remaining seven-tenths to be paid at the same time as the 1893 taxes. Other places are mentioned and proposals for deferment of taxes made.—*Granted by Rescript.*

6th and 7th March.

MURDER OF THREE PERSONS.

The Governor of Kirin reports the execution by cutting in pieces of a man convicted of murdering three members of one family. The parties concerned in the case were all inhabitants of a village in the Sub-prefecture of It'ungchou. One day the autumn before last the child of one of the villagers was bitten by a neighbour's dog. The child's father, Wu Lien-k'uei, demanded satisfaction from the owner of the dog. An acquaintance named Han undertook to get the claim settled, and obtained compensation for him to the amount of about a couple of dollars. This having been paid,

Han asked for a present in return for his services, and Wu Lien-k'uei promised him two hundredweight of corn. But, as the child died soon afterwards, Wu Lien-k'uei declined to keep his word. Han, nevertheless, continued to press for payment; and one day in the spring, his wife went to Wu Lien-k'uei's house to ask again for the corn. When she met with a refusal, she made a disturbance, and threw some dirt into a saucepan which was boiling on the fire. Wu Lien-k'uei went off to Han's house to expostulate. But Han took his wife's part and struck Wu Lien-k'uei with his fist. The latter went home in a rage, and, after drinking more than was good for him, made up his mind to give Han a beating. As he knew that Han was his superior in strength, he asked a nephew to give him his help. Accordingly towards evening they went together to Han's house, the uncle armed with a knife, and the nephew with a cudgel. On reaching the door they began to shout and curse, upon which Han came out and replied in similar style. Wu Lien-k'uei thereupon stabbed him in the face and the nephew struck him with the cudgel. He fell to the ground, and as he lay there, he showered imprecations on his assailants and their ancestors, threatening them with revenge when he should be well again. Wu Lien-k'uei then determined to take his life, and hacked him about the head till he killed him. Han's wife, accompanied by her little girl, came out to help her husband, and caught hold of the murderer, struggling with him with all her might. Wu Lien-kuei, who was in a state of great excitement, slew her also in order to stop her mouth, and even killed the little girl, who was standing by, crying. The nephew had taken no part in the murders, but he assisted his uncle to carry away the corpses and throw them into a ditch, where they covered them with earth. While they were thus engaged, another nephew of Wu Lien-k'uei came by. The murderer could not conceal from him what had happened, but persuaded him not to say anything about it. Three weeks afterwards a patrol of soldiers, who were looking for robbers, happened to pass by the house of the murdered man. Seeing it empty and noticing marks of the struggle that had occurred, they made enquiries and found out the truth from the spectator of the burial. Wu Lien-k'uei was arrested, and after trial was sentenced and executed in accordance with the law. The nephew who aided him escaped and could not be found. As the murderer left no children, it has been ordered that the whole of his

property be given to the family of his victim.—*Approved.*

8th March.

MONGOLS AT EMPRESS'S FESTIVITIES.

A Decree of the Empress Dowager deals with the presence of the Mongol Princes at the coming festivities on the occasion of her attaining her sixtieth year. Of the Mongol Princes and nobles who have the right of entry at court, those who are on duty that year are required to present themselves and make obeisance, while the rest may do so if they desire it. With regard to the other princes and nobles who have not the right of entry, but who ought in strictness to come to Peking on such an occasion to pray for blessings upon Her Majesty, it is ordered that those who are on duty that year shall appear at the capital, and the remainder of them are excused.

PUNISHMENT OF NEGLIGENT GUARDS.

According to a report presented by the Governor of Shingking, last year a prisoner who had been condemned to death for murder in T'iehling Hsien was sent as is customary to the provincial capital for a final examination before the high authorities. He had formerly been an opium smoker, and, after he had given up the practice, he was subject to pains in the stomach, which he cured by taking medicine made of opium. His mother was afraid that he might have one of his attacks on the journey, and therefore, just before he started, she bought a box of anti-opium pills and gave them to him. The guards, who with the gaol-warden were in charge of him, knew that she had done so, but did not see any reason to prevent it. The journey to Moukden was accomplished, the examination took place, and the party set out on their return. On the last evening, as they were approaching T'iehling, the prisoner had an attack of his old complaint. Trying to cure himself as rapidly as possible, he swallowed all the contents of the box, with the result that he was poisoned beyond possibility of recovery. The guards discovered his illness, and when the party arrived late in the night at T'iehling, they carried him into the lock-up, intending to send for a medical man the first thing in the morning; but before that could be done the man was dead. As the guards knew that they had rendered themselves liable to heavy punishment, they told the gaol-warden that the man had died in prison of sickness; and the gaol-warden made a

similar statement to the magistrate when the latter, who had been absent, returned to the town. The magistrate reported the death to his superiors, who, as the law requires, appointed an independent magistrate to hold an inquest. This officer discovered that the death had been caused by poison; and then the whole story came out. According to the law, if the persons in charge of a prisoner give him any instrument by which he puts himself to death, they are liable to receive eighty blows and two years' banishment. The guards, in the present case, ought to have known that anti-opium pills contain opium ashes, and when taken in quantity will cause death; and their offence, though not quite so grave, is very similar to the one described in the text books. It is therefore proposed to give them a punishment one degree lighter, namely seventy blows and a year and a half's banishment. The gaol-warden has already been cashiered, and the magistrate, who had lost a step of rank, has since died. It is therefore not thought necessary to take any further notice of either of them.—*Referred to the Board of Justice.*

9th March.

No documents of interest.

10th March.

TEMPLE IN HONOUR OF YEN CHING-MING.

The Governor of Shantung presents a memorial on behalf of a number of gentlemen belonging to that province, who wish to erect a temple in honour of the recently deceased statesman Yen Ching-ming. According to the statement of the applicants, in the reign of Hsien Fêng, Shantung was terribly harassed both by the Taipings and Nienfei rebels, who came from other parts of the Empire, and by numerous bodies of local brigands known under various names, such as the sectarian banditti, turban banditti, salt banditti and others. At the beginning of the reign of Tung Chih the Taipings and Nienfei were giving less trouble; but the local brigands had become a greater pest than ever. Just at this period, now thirty years ago, Yen Ching-ming was promoted to be Governor of the Province. He found the country in a state of terrible disorder, banditti everywhere, and the people openly refusing to pay their taxes. He at once gave himself unreservedly to his work. With the aid of Prince Sankofusin he weeded out the weak and useless from the army and transformed it into a serviceable force. In a few months' time he got the better

of the brigands, destroying their lairs in Tunch'ang and Tzsch'uan, and at the same time not letting them escape, so as break out again and create disturbance anew. In those days the country was full of unauthorised bodies of trainbands or militia. Marching about in large numbers, under the command of the men who enrolled them, they exacted contributions from the farmers, far heavier than the ordinary government taxes. These bands were suppressed by Yen Ching-ming to the great relief of both the officials and the people, and the regular government was recognised once more. By the end of three years the provincial treasury contained three million taels; the remaining bands of brigands had been crushed beyond the possibility of recovery; and the army had been remodelled without any trouble occurring from the soldiers who were dismissed. The fame of the Governor was known throughout the kingdom, and he was honoured and eulogised by his Imperial Master. He was no less successful in his administrative acts and in the management of his subordinates. Treating them with firmness but kindness, he became a terror to the unprincipled. The results of his government have lasted to the present day, and the people are yet reaping the benefit therefrom. In remembrance of what he did for them, the petitioners ask leave to erect a temple in his honour at the provincial capital, where services may be performed by the officials in the spring and autumn.—*Granted.*

11th March.

REPORT BY ADMIRAL OF THE YANGTZE.

The Admiral of the Yangtze reports that last October, on assuming charge of his post, he first proceeded to his official residence at Taiping Fu, where he attended to the matters of business which were awaiting his arrival, and reviewed the five squadrons which are under his immediate command. After this he ascended the Yangtze and reviewed the five squadrons at Hukou, the four at Hanyang, and the four at Yochou. At each place he was contented with the knowledge of their drill shown by the men and the way in which they handled their guns and smaller fire-arms. Those who did best, he encouraged by rewards, and he inflicted punishments where necessary. Besides having interviews with the high authorities along the route, he crossed the P'yang Lake and the Tungting Lake to the capitals of Kiangsi and Hunan, in order to visit the Governors of those provinces. In all he travelled

more than four thousand *li*, and was away over seventy days. The squadrons at Kuachou and other places below Nanking have recently been inspected by the Viceroy, and therefore the memorialist could leave them for a time; but he will proceed to Kuachou at the end of a visit which he is now making to Nanking for the purpose of consulting with the Viceroy there. The memorialist remarks that the Yangtze fleet was placed on its present footing at the beginning of the reign of Tung Chih by Tseng Kuo-fan and Peng Yu-lin; but it was then recognised that as time should go on there would be changes necessary. Of the matters to be observed the first and most important is that both the officers and the men should live on board their gunboats. This was the old rule and it must be obeyed under pain of immediate dismissal. Secondly opium smoking and gambling must be prevented. These practices are principally indulged in at night, which is just the time when the patrol boats should exercise the greatest vigilance. If robberies take place on the water, this will be held as proof of the negligence of the patrols. Thirdly the men must be kept well to their drill. If they are not thoroughly and regularly exercised, they will fail through want of practice, when the moment comes for them really to fight. Fourthly, everything must be real and thorough and there must be no pretence or sham.

There is one special matter which the memorialist has in his mind. He received in person the verbal commands of His Majesty, that he should take the strictest precautions against the *Kotao Hui*. Many or most of these are disbanded soldiers, who entice each other to join; and it will require long watchfulness before the society can gradually be rooted out. A year ago along the valley of the Yangtze it was only the rapid action of the high authorities which stifled the flame before it burst out; and the slightest relaxation of vigilance is still not to be thought of. The memorialist has ordered all the men under his command, that they must immediately give secret information if any attempt is made to seduce them whether by acquaintances or strangers. Any of the men who may have been led away, will be fully pardoned if they surrender their tickets of their own accord; but if they are discovered by other means, they will be handed over to the civil authorities for exemplary punishment. The memorialist has personally addressed the officers and men of every squadron on these matters, and is again issuing orders to the

commanders to continue to display the greatest watchfulness.—*Noted.*

12th March.

EXAMINER IN FORMOSA.

In addition to his other duties the Governor of Formosa holds the post of Literary Chancellor. It is his duty therefore to conduct the civil and military examinations held in the different prefectures of the island. On account of press of business he requests that he may be allowed to send a deputy to represent him at the examinations in Taipeh Fu and Tainan Fu.—*Granted.*

SUBSIDY TO KUEICHOW IN ARREAR.

The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung reports that the province of Hupeh owes to Kueichow arrears of subsidy to the amount of Tls. 158,000. During the past five years Tls. 92,000 of the above debt has been cleared off, and this year (1892) the Board of Re-organisation informed the memorialist that it had a sum of Tls. 10,000 which could be devoted to the same purposes. The money has therefore been paid into a native bank which will remit it to the Kueichow Government.

13th March.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty is wearing robes of grey squirrel.

14th March.

POOR RELIEF IN KANSU.

The Province of Kansu, says the Governor-General, suffered last spring and summer from a severe drought. In the autumn the crops were again damaged by hailstorms and by floods resulting from heavy rains. The harvest therefore was necessarily most deficient. When the winter came, the memorialist saw that, unless relief measures were introduced, the poorer classes must suffer terribly from cold and hunger. He therefore desired the local authorities, wherever it might be required, to open soup kitchens and distribute clothing for the benefit of the poor and needy. In the neighbourhood of Lanchou Fu the state of affairs was worse than anywhere else, and the price of corn had risen greatly. The memorialist deputed officers to establish two soup-kitchens outside the East Gate, one for men, the other for women. The distribution of broth commenced about the beginning of December; and the number of applicants went on increasing, till at the end of January they averaged more than nine thousand daily. They all presented relief tickets which had

been given to them, and there was no confusion or disorder. When the season has ended the memorialists will furnish a statement of the expenditure, and he hopes that he may be allowed to charge it in his accounts.—*Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

15th March.

REMISSION OF TAXES IN NORTH KIANGSU.

The Viceroy at Nanking presents a memorial, recommending that the land tax this year be remitted or postponed in very many districts of northern Kiangsu, where the harvest from a variety of causes was much below the average amount. In Kiangning Fu, Yangchow Fu and Huaian Fu bright sunny weather prevailed during the spring and summer. The rice fields on the higher ground suffered greatly for want of moisture; and the rain, when at last it fell, was too late to revive the plants. As autumn came on there was a recurrence of the dry weather, which damaged the beans and other subsidiary crops. Even the low-lying grounds on the bank of the Yangtze and the lakes did not escape uninjured, as they were invaded by an extraordinary rising of the tide. In Hsüehou Fu and Haichou many districts suffered from freshets in the streams which descend from the Shantung mountains.

In the Decree attached to this memorial the Emperor approves the Viceroy's suggestions. He desires that all taxation for the year be remitted in those parts of Kanch'ian Hsien, where the loss of the harvest amounts to an actual calamity and partial remission would ordinarily be granted. In the adjoining localities where the distress is less, and in twenty-four other Hsien, which he enumerates, the collection of this year's land tax is postponed till after next harvest, when half of it will be required, and the other half in the following year. In the five Hsien of Shaoyuan, Kiangning, Chüyang, Kinangpu and Liuho there are lands still remaining waste; while in Kiangtu Hsien there are fields occupied by camps, and others which have been invaded by the river. For all of these the tax of the year is entirely remitted.

16th March.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS NEAR CHINKIANG.

The high authorities of the province of Kiangsu report what they have done in the way of relieving the distress prevalent near Chinkiang, that is to say in Tant'u, Tsuyang and portions of the districts adjoining. As was recorded in the *Gazette* some time

ago, the Emperor devoted to this object fifty thousand piculs of tribute rice together with the money which would have been paid for the cost of conveying it by canal to Peking. At the same time the Viceroy and the Governor instituted a relief fund, to which they and their subordinate officials contributed sums from their official pay. The local gentry and merchants were also strongly urged to subscribe, under the promise of marks of distinction in return for the donations. Investigations were carefully conducted by special officers, who ascertained that in Tant'u the adults in need of relief numbered 141,700 souls, and the children 80,300. Among the former were 7,300 persons whose destitution was such as to require exceptional treatment. At Tanyang the adults in need were 70,200, children 43,000. As a first step a distribution of money was made at about the end of December, 400 cash to the extremely poor, and 300 cash to the rest. To the children one half the above was given. In addition to the direct gifts of money further measures have been adopted. The two districts are traversed by many water-courses, which need to be cleared out. Eighty thousand men have been told off to this work for which they will receive regular wages. They will commence upon the Grand Canal, as soon as ever a survey has been made, and afterwards will go on to the smaller creeks, as funds allow. Also twenty-five thousand strings of cash are being spent in keeping alive draught cattle, which the owners would otherwise be forced to kill because of their inability at the moment to feed them, though they will be urgently wanted for ploughing as soon as the spring begins. A third measure is the planting of trees on useless ground, and of mulberries and bamboos in suitable spots in the hills. The local gentry have been required to form a society which shall undertake this work. In the adjacent districts of Kintan and Liyang there is a good deal of high and poor land, where the distress is greater than in other places. The local authorities of these two Hsien have been ordered to issue what may be necessary from their storehouses, and they have been given six thousand strings each from the general fund. In the one district this money will be spent in relief works, in the other in supplementing the grain in the storehouses. There is much want also in the parts of Wuchin which touch Tanyang. It is therefore arranged that all contributions from Wuchin shall be set apart for local use.—*Noted.*

OPIMUM LIKIN IN HONAN.

The Governor of Honan presents a report concerning the likin collected on opium in that province during the seven months which formed the first half of last year. The amount collected at the provincial capital is not stated, but in the rest of the province the receipts for foreign opium came to Tls. 4,257. Also, in Shaugh'iu and eight other producing districts, where the local drug is taxed in the markets, the duty paid was Tls. 2,433. These sums are greater than those in the preceding year.

17th March.

FUNDS SENT TO SHANSI FOR POOR RELIEF.

A Decree of the Emperor refers to the distress occasioned by the failure of the harvest last year in parts of central Shansi and still more in the northern portion of the province outside the Great Wall. His Majesty is aware that the poor people have suffered terribly, and he fears that they will have even greater difficulty in supporting themselves during the long period which must elapse before next summer's harvest can be ripe. He therefore desires the Board of Revenue to send a sum of Tls. 100,000 to the Governor of the Province, who will cause it to be expended in relief wherever he finds it is most required.

REMITTANCE FROM SZECHUAN TO KUEICHOW.

The Governor-General of Szechuan states that he has sent to Kueichow the sum of Tls. 150,000, which is the subvention that he is annually required to furnish to the government of the latter province. The money was taken from the likin on salt.

18th March.

EXECUTION OF KOLAO HUI IN KIANGSI.

The Governor of Kiangsi states that after the suppression of the *Kolao Hui* rebellion at Taanli in P'ingsingsien, an active search was maintained for escaped offenders, while a free pardon was offered to all people who had been deluded into joining the society for the sake of obtaining protection, and would now surrender their tickets of membership of their own accord. Recently the troops in Nanch'angfu captured an important prisoner named Wu-yang, for whom the authorities had long been on the look out. As the journey to Nanch'angfu was a long one and the Governor did not wish to risk the chance of the man's escape, it was ordered that he should be tried on the spot. He confessed that he had been admitted into the society, and become one of its headmen,

being the Sixth Chief and "Black Flag Leader." As soon as the result of the trial was reported, the Governor ordered the man's execution.

Two more noteworthy criminals were taken, the one in Hsinyü, and the other in Shangkaohsien. On their being sent to Nanch'angfu and examined, the one acknowledged that he had taken part in Ch'ih Hua-lung's plot, the object of which was to seize the city of Juichoufu, and that he had gone about the country enrolling men to join in the enterprise. The other prisoner had been formally admitted into the society, and was headman for the districts of Chingchiang, Hsinyü and Shangkao. He had prepared rebel proclamations and posted them all about the country. When the engagement with the troops took place at Nanch'ang he had been left in charge of the stronghold at Taanli. The crimes committed by these men being unpardonable, they were both beheaded without delay, and their heads exposed to the public gaze.

In conclusion the Governor requests rewards for the officers who effected the captures.—*Referred to the Board.*

REMITTANCES FROM KIANGSI.

The Governor of Kiangsi last year was required to furnish Tls. 15,000 for the pay of the officers and soldiers in the province of Heilungchiang. The money was to be sent to Mou-deu to the care of the Governor of Shingking. The memorialist has remitted it through a native bank, to which he has paid the sum of Tls. 375 for the cost of the transaction.—*Noted.*

The same memorialist states that he has been ordered this year to send a subvention of Tls. 360,000 to the province of Kansu. He will take two-thirds of the sum from the land revenue and likin in the Provincial Treasury, and he asks leave to draw the remaining third from the Peking Tribute Funds.—*Approved.*

19th March.

REWARDS FOR OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Governor of Formosa makes a representation on behalf of the officials in that island who are engaged in the management of foreign affairs. Before Formosa became a separate province, they used to be recommended for rewards together with the officials of the same class in Foochow and Amoy. This was carried on until five years ago, and now the Fukien authorities have again recommended the officers on the mainland. Formosa has

four ports open to foreigners; and there are serious duties at other places by the sea, in the way of assisting distressed vessels and so on. Moreover the island occupies a most important position, being a sort of marine outpost, covering the whole of South China. The memorialist hopes that the officials under his orders may have the same stimulus to exertion as those in Fukien and Kuangtung, and he begs to be allowed to make recommendations at the end of every five years for officers who have been engaged in foreign business for a period of not less than three years.—*Referred to the Tsungli Yamen.*

20th March.

EXAMINATIONS IN SZECHUAN.

The Literary Chancellor of Szechuan reports that he has held the regular examinations at the provincial capital and in the eastern and northern parts of the province. He arrived at his post early last spring, and commenced by examining the students at Ch'engtu Fu. As soon as this task was accomplished, he started to visit the other principal towns, and did not return till just before the close of the year. He found the students everywhere well instructed, and malpractices were very scarce. In Moukung'ing and in the Wench'uanhsien, which are both remote districts, the candidates were not numerous, and one less than the authorised number was selected. In the military examinations the Manchus of the Ch'engtu garrison particularly distinguished themselves in archery and riding.

DISTURBANCE AT AN EXAMINATION.

The same memorialist states that while the military students of Chienchou were being examined in foot archery, a clamour arose which could not be suppressed. Two of the culprits were seized and put into the cangue; but the uproar became all the greater, the students insisting on the release of the prisoners. When the proctors came in to report to the memorialist, the crowd forced its way in with them and behaved in a very unseemly manner. Afterwards eleven of the rioters were arrested by the local authorities, and it was ascertained that the disturbance was commenced by one of their number who had failed in his shooting. The memorialist thinks that the offenders should be punished severely for this unprovoked outburst, as the military candidates in Szechuan are too much given to misbehaviour of this kind. The local authorities have reported the facts to the Governor-General, in whose hands it now rests.—*Noted.*

A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION.

Fifty-seven years ago two brothers named Tung, natives of Tzuch'hsien in Chékiang, gave 2,300 *mow* of land to found a charitable institution for the benefit of their poor kindred. Two of their relatives, a grandson and a nephew, have now devoted to the same purpose 2,979 *mow* of land, worth Tls. 52,640. The Governor, after praising their generosity, requests that the fact of the donation may be put on record, so that the land shall be retained in perpetuity for the object desired.—*Let the Board concerned take note.*

SALT LIKEN AT CHUNGKING.

The salt likin began to be collected at Chungking in the year 1860. During the past year (1891) the receipts amounted to Tls. 192,923.

21st March.

REWARDS FOR SERVICE IN SOUTH YUNNAN.

The Viceroy and Governor in Yunnan send in a list of names of officers to be rewarded for their exploits on the frontier of the province the year before last. The successful termination of the expedition having been already reported in a previous memorial, very few details are now given. But one gathers that the locality was in the Lohai Mountains, in the district of Chienpien'ing. A number of newly subjugated Lolos seem to have revolted against the Chinese, and killed an official of some rank, cutting him off upon the road when travelling, after which they fortified their mountain villages and refused all submission. The expeditionary force, consisting of three thousand men, forced the passage of the Black River, and after a few weeks of hard fighting reduced the insurgents to subjection again. The troops were not only engaged in numerous hand-to-hand conflicts, but met with great difficulties from the nature of the country which is covered with forest, while the mountains are so precipitous that they can hardly be scaled. The expedition took place in mid-autumn, which is a healthy time of year; but still deaths occurred from malaria every day. The memorialists call special attention to the quickness with which the campaign was concluded, thus causing a great saving both of men and money.—*Referred to the Board.*

INSPECTION BY CANTON ADMIRAL.

Cheng Shao-chung, Admiral of the Kuangtung province, reports that he has inspected the forts, vessels, sailors and marines in the central district of the

province of Kuangtung. Everything is satisfactory, the junks in good condition, and the men well drilled. He would also have personally visited the eastern and western districts; but he was desired by the Emperor, at the Viceroy's request, to undertake the task of capturing the Ch'ing-hsiang banditti. He therefore established temporary headquarters at Chut'oushan near Hsinhui, and directed the local commanders to hold inspections in his place. The reports sent in by them show that the forces in the east and the west are all in good condition.

22nd March.

POOR RELIEF IN CHIHLI.

The Emperor refers to the distress caused by floods last year in the low-lying parts of the province of Chihli. Taxation was remitted or postponed and a great deal of charity distributed in the form of money or grain. But the Emperor fears that the poor people will have great difficulty in supporting themselves till the wheat harvest is ripe next summer. He therefore desires the Viceroy Li to detain at Tientsin fifty thousand piculs of this year's sea-borne tribute rice, together with the money which would have been paid for conveying it to Peking. The Viceroy will cause the rice to be distributed to those in want, or use it for paying men engaged on relief works, whichever he may think best.

BREACH OF ETIQUETTE.

The Grand Secretary Fuk'uan committed an error to-day when introducing officials to be presented to His Majesty. It is ordered that the Board concerned determine a fitting penalty for his offence.

THE LATE GENERAL T'ANG I-HSÜN.

T'ang I-hsün was a Hunan man who entered the army as a volunteer in the year 1853. He attracted the attention of Tseng Kuo-fan, and rose gradually to the rank of General. He saw a great deal of fighting against the Taipings in Hupeh, Kiangsi, Anhui, Chökang and Kiangsu. The latter part of his military career was passed in Southern Anhui, where he held an independent command, and was continually engaged with the enemy. He made an unsuccessful attack upon Huichou Fu, in the course of which he was shot through the shoulder. For this defeat Tseng Kuo-fan requested the Emperor to reduce him to the rank of Major; but shortly afterwards he again brilliantly distinguished himself and his former rank was restored to him. In 1864 he went into temporary retirement on account of

his wounds and died at home from them ten years later. Though so long a time has elapsed since his death, it is hoped that the customary marks of the Emperor's compassion may be bestowed upon his family.—*Approved.*

23rd March.

OFFICIAL PUNISHED FOR SERVANTS' MISCONDUCT.

The sub-prefect of Kuangsi-chou recently presented a strange report to the Viceroy of Yunnan. He had been summoned, he said, to a village in his district to hold an inquest on a man who had been stabbed to death. His retinue obtained a lodging for the night in the house of a woman who was sister to the man that killed the deceased. After eating their dinner they fell down stupefied, but remedies were applied, and they recovered. They said that the woman of the house had poisoned the water in which the rice was boiled. She was arrested, but managed to escape, and hanged herself in fear of the consequences of her act. The Viceroy thought the story very improbable, and gave orders for the truth of it to be investigated. Afterwards the woman's husband lodged a complaint to the effect that the sub-prefect's attendants had driven his wife to commit suicide, and had kicked his little son to death. An inquest, held by an independent authority, elicited the facts that the woman had died from hanging and that there were fetters on her person. The little boy had also been hanged; and there were bruises on both the bodies. The Viceroy remarks that the men will of course be tried in the ordinary way. But he considers that in any case the sub-prefect ought to have enquired immediately into the story of the poisoning and not to have let the woman be locked up on the unproved statements of his attendants. It is therefore requested that he may be immediately cashiered.—*Granted.*

REPAIRS TO EMBANKMENTS NEAR AMOY.

Last autumn the Viceroy at Foochow reported that owing to heavy rain storms the river embankments had been washed away in Lungch'i and Nanching Hsiens. The water subsided so rapidly that less harm was done than might have been expected, and the local authorities were able to give such poor relief as was required. But now comes the more important question of repairing the embankments concerned. In Lungch'i they have been destroyed for a length of 7,893 feet, and in Nanching for 12,776 feet. If they be not rebuilt during the low water season in

the winter months, when the spring rainfall and the freshets come down from the mountains, the whole country will be turned into a lake. After the losses which the farmers sustained from the destruction of their crops in the autumn, it is quite beyond their power to do the work from their own resources. It is therefore settled that the authorities should undertake the task. Careful estimates show that the cost will be Tls. 1.7.2.8 per foot, or Tls. 35,700 in all. The Viceroy proposes to raise subscriptions in Changchow and the neighbouring country, in order to provide the necessary funds. This will not be easy, as the people have given so much of late to Shantung and Chihli. But in order to encourage liberality, he begs that, as in the case of subscriptions for those provinces, rewards may be given to the contributors in the form of decorations, honorary titles, ancestral honours, and so on, and that, in calculating for this purpose, only four-tenths may be required of the nominal sum.—*Approved.*

TROOPS POSTED IN HONAN.

The Governor of Honan remarks that on account of the central position of that province the preservation of order there is of great importance to the whole Empire. On the east the borderland of Chihli and Shantung is a perpetual nursery of robbers, on the south-west the *Koiao Hui* from Shensi and Hupeh are continually striving to gain a footing in the province, while through Honan Fu and Shanchou runs the great road between east and west China. He recently obtained permission to raise an additional battalion of foot. This will be retained at Kaifeng Fu, so that it may be thoroughly drilled, and a battalion of old troops will be despatched thence to Juchou. Also two companies of cavalry will be stationed at Shanchou. There are three battalions belonging to Honan Fu and the three prefectures to the north of the Yellow River. Two will be left on the north bank and one stationed at Honan Fu. The General at Nanyang commands three battalions, with which he will preserve order in Nanyang and Juning. He is also ordered to co-operate with the Hupeh troops which have been sent to suppress brigandage in Hsiangyang Fu and other places on their side of the frontier. The General at Kuei-t'i Fu, who has three battalions there, will take charge of that prefecture and of Ch'enchow Fu and Hsü-chou. The whole province is thus provided for; and the memo-

rialist trusts that peace and order will be eventually preserved.

24th March.

LARGE DONATION TO RELIEF FUND.

The magistrate of Kwangchihhsien in Hupeh, Mr. P'eng Kuang-sin, has subscribed the large sum of Tls. 10,000 to the Chihli Relief Fund, making at the same time the usual declaration that he does not desire any notice to be taken of what he has done. The money is forwarded through the Governor-General Chang Chih-tung, who informs H.E. Li Hung-chang that Mr. P'eng is an intelligent, experienced and painstaking officer. H.E. Li reports the above facts to the Emperor and states that the gift has come most opportunely, as receipts have of late fallen off, while money is still wanted. The other day, for instance, the General at Jeho asked for Tls. 20,000 to relieve the people in the Ch'ihfeng neighbourhood; but the memorialist was obliged to refuse on account of the lack of funds. Whether the present munificent donor should be rewarded or not is a matter entirely for His Majesty's decision, but the memorialist shows that it would be in accordance with precedent to promote him to the rank of prefect.—*Promotion granted.*

MAP OF KIANGSI.

The government of Kiangsi was desired some time ago to have a map of the province drawn, and a specimen was sent showing the way the work was to be done. Instructions were sent to the district magistrates, but when their maps came in they were found not to be in accord with the specimen. A surveying department was therefore established for the whole province and the local authorities were told to procure proper instruments from Shanghai so as to be able to do their share of the work. As this would take some time, a year's extension was granted for the completion of the undertaking. It is found, however, that this limit is not long enough. The country is mountainous, foggy weather often interferes with the taking of bearings, or wet weather with the making of measurements. Besides the Poyang lake presents special difficulty, being a wide sea in summer and a network of channels in winter. Nanch'ang and Juichou have been surveyed, but there still remain twelve more prefectures to be undertaken. It is therefore requested that two more years may be allowed.—*Granted.*

25th March.

DISPUTED EXPENDITURE IN THE NORTHERN FLEET.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang, on behalf of the Admiralty, gives a very long explanation concerning some items in the accounts of the Northern Fleet for the years 1886 to 1889. The Board of War has asked for more details, in default of which it declines to pass the accounts. The first matter in question is the pay and return passages of six foreign engineers who were engaged for service with the fleet. The second is the sum of Tls. 108 paid for the transshipment of nine hundred tons of naval stores at Shanghai. The next is certain charges for shipping coal at Taku, and insurance on stores while warehoused in foreign godowns. Concerning some of these matters the Viceroy says that the Board is already in possession of the information it demands, with reference to the rest he gives detailed explanations, adding that, when the disputed items were incurred, the Admiralty administration was personally directed by His Imperial Highness the late Prince Ch'an. The total amount of the naval expenditure for these years was Tls. 1,185,501. All of this, the memorialist avers, was honestly spent, and he begs that the Board of War may be ordered to pass the accounts.—*Referred to the Board of War.*

TEMPLE FOR A BRAVE OFFICIAL.

In the year 1853 the city of Chianfu in Kiangsi was attacked by local banditti. The prefect, Wang Pen-fu, mounted the walls and successfully defended the place. Some days afterwards he was able to assume the offensive, and sallying out inflicted severe punishment on the bands which were ravaging the adjacent country. Finally, however, he fell into an ambush, and was killed after making a brave resistance. The Emperor conferred on him the posthumous rank of Taotai, and ordered that a temple be founded as a remembrance of him and of his servants who fell with him. The temple was built; but then came the wave of the Taiping rebellion, before a report had been made to the Emperor. The archives were destroyed, and the whole matter was forgotten. The edifice, however, is still standing, a solitary block. His Majesty is requested to authorise the performance of official worship there, as was originally intended.—*Granted.*

26th March.

REWARD FOR FOUNDING A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION.

Some years ago a gentleman of Huang-kanghsien in Hupeh desired to found a charitable institution for the benefit of the poor members of his family. He and his son could only devote Tls. 800 to the undertaking; but his grandson, Wang Yü-tsao, formerly Treasurer of Shantung, has now completed what they began. At a cost of Tls. 12,150, he has purchased 450 *mow* of land which will give a revenue of a thousand piculs of rice, and has erected suitable buildings for a charitable institution. Not only will poor widows and orphans be supported, but there will also be funds for funerals, and a school for the children of the clan. The Governor-General Chang Chih-tung reported these facts to the Emperor, adding that, in view of the high rank of the founder, perhaps the Emperor would be pleased to bestow on him some special mark of favour, instead of merely sanctioning the honour ordinarily given of a memorial arch. The Board of Ceremonies, having been ordered to consider the case, now furnishes a report. It finds that there is no fixed rule; but in two similar cases the Emperor granted a tablet written by himself or in his private secretariat. The Board suggests that his Majesty will perhaps be pleased to follow these precedents in the present case.—*Decree already published.*

27th March.

TORPEDO OFFICER CHANGED.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang finds that the Commander of one of the torpedo-boats in the Northern fleet is not up to his work. The memorialist therefore proposes to give this officer other employment, and on the recommendation of Admiral Ting selects for the vacant post a sub-lieutenant, Chêng Tê-ch'un, who was educated at the Naval College.

YELLOW RIVER WORKS IN HONAN.

One of the most important points, says the Director General, along the whole course of the Yellow River is Huangmén in Yungtsé Hsien. It is this spot which first receives the force of the current as the river issues from the mountain regions. A large breakwater was erected here by the late Director, and has proved to be of great service in breaking and deflecting the strength of the stream. Since then a sum of five thousand taels has been set

apart annually for repairing the break-water. During the past autumn and winter this allowance has been spent in strengthening the works with loose stones. The amount of stone used was 71,712 square feet, and the cost Tls. 5,016.—*Referred to the Board.*

DREDGING GRAND CANAL.

The use of the Grand Canal for conveying tribute rice to Peking requires that it should be dredged again as usual. It is calculated that during the present year the expenditure for this purpose in Shantung will come to Tls. 25,187.—*Approved.*

TEMPLE IN MEMORY OF DECEASED PREFECT.

In the year 1856 an official named LU P'i-tsang was prefect of Tuyun Fu in Kweichow. This was the time of the Miaotze rebellion. The prefect made a gallant head against the rebels, frequently defeating them and holding them in check for a whole year. He was succeeded by a new prefect; but before he had time to leave the place, it fell into the enemy's hands. Sooner than surrender, he set fire to his residence and, with his whole family, perished in the flames. In accordance with an Imperial Decree, a temple has been erected to his memory in his native district of Tinghsing Hsien in Chihli. The Viceroy Li Hung-chang requests that service may be officially performed at the temple, and that the cost of sacrificial utensils required may be defrayed from the public purse.—*Granted.*

28th March.

DISTRESSED GAMEKEEPERS.

The Governor of Jeho asks for an advance to pay to the soldiers in charge of the Imperial hunting ground near that city. The soldiers, it seems, are paid from the rents of certain lands, which are set apart for their support. For some years past there had been wet harvests, which prevented the tenants from paying full rent; and last year came early frosts, which destroyed the crops to such a degree that nothing was forthcoming from the tenants at all. The memorialist finds that this state of things has happened once or twice before in past times, and the difficulty has been got over by advancing a sum of money from the public treasury, the same being repaid by deductions from the men's pay, spread over a number of years. He now suggests that the men should be given twelve taels each, and should repay the loan in ten annual instalments. As there are one thousand soldiers, the sum required will be twelve thousand

taels. If His Majesty sanctions this, the memorialist will send an officer to the Board of Revenue to receive the money.—*Approved.*

WINTER FRESHET IN SHANTUNG.

According to a memorial from the Governor of Shantung, last winter more than a foot of snow fell in that province, and the ice in the Yellow River was strong enough to be crossed by horses and carts. The Governor was afraid that, when the ice broke up, much damage might be done by the blocks and therefore he gave orders for a sharp watch to be maintained. When the ice began to melt, the river suddenly rose six and a half feet at Hotsé on the western frontier of the Province. Ten days later, in the central districts, where the channel of the river is comparatively narrow, there was a still greater rise, namely of more than eight feet. But near the river's mouth, where the cold winds still kept the ice firm, the water could not escape freely to the sea, and so it mounted to an extraordinary height; while the blocks of ice were piled up and dashed against the banks, which they threatened momentarily to overwhelm. At one place in Chiyang Hsien cracks opened in the embankment; but they were stopped by wadded clothes, which the soldiers and workmen thrust into them, till the place could be properly repaired and strengthened. At another spot, in Huimin Hsien masses of ice were heaped up by the stream till they overtopped the bank; and the water running over it escaped into the Sha River. The action of the water carried away the embankment for more than three hundred feet; but by strenuous labour it has been set right again in about a fortnight.

SUBSCRIPTION OF TEN THOUSAND TAEI.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang recommends to the Emperor's notice an official named Yao Ching-hsi, who has contributed Tls. 10,000 to the Chihli Relief Fund. The donor is now a magistrate on probation in Kiangsi, and the Emperor desires that he be put on the list to receive a substantive appointment as soon as possible.

REWARDS FOR SAVING LIFE AT SEA.

Last spring an officer named HU KUANG-ning, who was in command of the Chinese gunboat *Chaowen*, saved the lives of seventeen shipwrecked persons, some Chinese and some foreigners. For this the Viceroy Li Hung-chang recommended him to the Emperor for promotion. The Emperor signified his approval; but the Board of War represented that by the rules in force,

such a mark of favour could only be granted for saving thirty people. Recently, however, the same officer has rescued fourteen Chinese from a capsized junk off the coast of Chékiang and Fukien. A fresh request for his promotion is therefore made by the Viceroy.—*Referred to the Board of War.*

INSPECTION OF TROOPS IN MANCHURIA.

The Military Governor of Kirin reports his intention of reviewing the Manchurian body of troops, known as the *Chempien* Force. This army which consists of eighteen battalions, horse, foot and marines, was raised between two and three years ago, and is reported by its commanders to have now attained pretty good order. Also military farms have been brought into cultivation to the extent of fourteen hundred *mu*; but owing to the works being begun late and to the early occurrence of frosts last year, only a short crop was raised. The memorialist considers that while the troops are in their present initial state a frequent watch should be kept over their progress. Moreover at the present time he has no difficulty in arranging for the performance of his duties at the principal capital. He therefore proposes early in March to start upon a tour of inspection, taking with him but a small retinue. He will first direct his steps to Suihau-t'ing, where he will review portions of the cavalry. Thence he will go on to T'iehshan-pao where he will muster and inspect the five 'down-stream' battalions of foot. Next he will proceed to Nanchiangyuan, where he will find the 'up-stream' infantry. To review the one battalion of marines, he must wait till the ice in the river has broken up. There are two battalions of infantry in the Heilungchiang province, one at the capital and the other at Morken. As these are so far away, he will send an officer to visit them instead of himself.

29th March.

THE KIANSI GOVERNOR VISITS PEKING.

Tê-ch'ing, Governor of Kiansi, states that he has now completed his third term of office, and has not visited Peking since the end of the first term, six years ago. He is thus bound to come and pay his respects to the Emperor. The province is in a satisfactory condition. The machinations of the *Kolao Hsi* have been stopped. All subventions to the capital or to other provinces have been paid and the receipts remitted. The Hukou Forts have been restored and those at Meichiachou will

soon be completed. There was a moderate harvest last year, and there should be a good one this year after the snow that has fallen. At the present moment there is a period of leisure; but next autumn the special examinations will fully occupy the Governor and his staff. He proposes therefore to proceed at once to Peking, leaving in charge the Provincial Treasurer Fang Ju-i.—*Approved.*

RETURNING FOR EXAMINATION.

The Governor of the Chahar country represents that, when appointed to his present post, he obtained leave to take with him his second son to look after his household matters. As there will be a special examination this autumn in honour of the Empress Dowager's Jubilee, the memorialist begs that his son may be allowed to return to Peking in order to appear as a candidate.—*Granted.*

30th March.

REWARDS FOR SAVING LIFE.

Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Two Kuang, recommends for promotion two officers, Chou Chen-pang and Kuo Hai-an who were instrumental in saving many lives on the occasions of the wreck of the *Soochoe*, a British steamer, in the year 1887, and of the *Ya-li-tsao-shih*, (1) a French steamer in 1890. Their names were unaccountably overlooked when the recommendations for rewards for meritorious services in connection with these two disasters were previously made, and memorialist would venture to suggest that in recognition of their gallant conduct, they be accorded promotion.—*Granted.*

RELIEF TO FAMINE-STRICKEN VILLAGES.

Li Hung-chang reports that owing to the severe frost last autumn over two hundred villages inside and outside the Kalgan pass were reduced to a state of dire distress, and although steps had since been taken to relieve them, great numbers of oxen and ponies had been sold and slaughtered for food with the result that almost none are now available for agricultural purposes. Memorialist has however received a report from Chi Shun, the Koupeh Taotai, in which he is informed that the Manchu and Mongol residents in Chahar have large droves of cattle and that they are willing to part with as many as are necessary for the use of the villagers in distress. This was done in 1878 when certain prefectures of the Chihli province were suffering from drought and rewards were duly issued to such as contributed. The public spirit

displayed by the bannermen on the present occasion appears to the memorialist to be deserving of the highest praise and he would beg that in order to encourage them he be allowed to recommend them for rewards on a very liberal scale.—*Permissions granted.*

31st March.

SHAHU CUSTOM'S RECEIPTS.

Enhao, Superintendent of Customs at the Shahu Pass, presents a statement of revenue collected by him from the time he took over charge on the 11th March, 1892. For the first two months and nine days Tls. 8,499 were collected; added to which the amount collected by his predecessor in office, during nine months and twenty-one days, namely Tls. 35,042, and a total of Tls. 43,541 for the year is arrived at. From this have to be subtracted the amounts remitted to the Boards of Revenue and Works and also current expenses, and a balance remains in hand of Tls. 15,678. During the nine months and twenty-one days from the 14th of May to the 28th of February a sum of Tls. 17,323 was collected or after deduction for expenses, etc., Tls. 13,625. The principal exports at the station are wool and hides and the principal imports tobacco, tea, and piece goods, but owing to the various misfortunes with which the Kueihua district has been visited during the past year there has been a great falling off in the transit trade and a corresponding deficit in the amount collected. Memorialist now awaits instructions as to how he is to dispose of the money in hand. The Board of Works recently called for a special return of duty on timber from Tachingshan. During memorialist's tenure of office no duty has so far been collected under this head.—*Decree will be issued separately.*

1st April,

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty will to-day proceed to the Ch'eng-kuang-t'ien and receive in audience Mr. von Brandt, the German Minister.

LIKIN RECEIPTS IN HUPEH.

T'an Chi-hsün forwards the customary return of likin collected in his province from the 30th of January, 1892, to the 21st of August, 1892. Exclusive of duty on opium there was in hand a sum of Tls. 140,686 to which must be added a sum collected amounting to Tls. 208,029 and 858,536 strings of cash. The following sums have been remitted or appropriated out of these amounts:—

	Tls.
The Yangtze fleet	91,433
Hupeh Board of Reorganisation	60,658
Salaries of above Board	5,951
Wages and expenses of the train-	
bands	13,191
Judicial Weiyüans	1,890
Military prizes	3,269
Lifeboats	3,360
Likin officers	16,642
Board of Reorganisation	7,898,853

of cash.
Expenses of likin offices 68,682 strings of cash.

This leaves a balance to be carried forward to the next half-year of Tls. 152,316 which will be duly accounted for.—*Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

2nd April.

No papers of interest.

3rd April.

OPIUM REVENUE IN SHANTUNG.

Fu-jun in a postscript memorial draws attention to the fact that when he reported the small amount of duty on native opium that was collected during the first year an office for that purpose was established, he asked that he might be allowed to retain 20 per cent. thereof to cover the expenses of the office. This request the Board refused to grant and would only sanction 10 per cent. This was tried, but according to the Provincial Treasurer has proved unworkable even although the strictest economy has been practised. Memorialist would point out that the country is of a level nature and inter-communication extremely easy so that a large staff of watchers has to be maintained, and the number of offices increased; he would therefore pray that he be at least allowed to retain 15 per cent. in the meantime, until the revenue increases somewhat.—*Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.*

4th April.

WAYSIDE SUPPLIANT FROM SHANTUNG.

Fu Jun reports on a case referred to him from Peking of an old woman who stopped the Emperor's chair to lay her plaint before him in person. It appears that the woman whose maiden name is Liu belongs to Chihli and married one Chang Liang but the latter died shortly afterwards and she gave birth to a posthumous child Chang Tê-ch'eng. As her husband had no relations she moved to Têchow in Shantung where her father lived and rented a house from one Waag Ping. She married again a man named Yang Chen-tung,

but as they did not agree he divorced her and she went back to stay with her father. During the first moon of last year Yang saw the boy Chang Tè-ch'eng playing on the street and carried him into a shop to amuse the youngster. When his mother heard what had happened she at once went and demanded back the child. A month or so after this the two of them went out to find work and left the grandfather alone at home. The old man was suffering from a lung complaint and in trying to warm himself one night his bedding caught fire and he received such serious injury that he died, notwithstanding the fact that Wang Ping did all he could to assist him.

When Chang Liu *shih* came back she at once demanded an inquest which was held by the magistrate who expressed himself satisfied that the death was the result of an accident. She, however, suspected Wang Ping of having been bribed by her second husband Yang to do away with old Liu. What confirmed her in her suspicions was the fact that Yang had been playing with her boy. She accordingly brought a formal charge against Wang which on being investigated was dismissed by the authorities concerned. This was the cause of her going to Peking and being guilty of the crime of impeding the Emperor's progress. Although she had a certain amount of justification for the course she adopted, being impelled by feelings of regard to discover the real cause of her parent's death, yet she must be punished according to law and be beaten with 100 blows prior to being banished to the nearer frontier. Being a woman she will be allowed to commute this penalty.—*Let the Board of Punishments consider and report.*

5th April.

REMITTANCES TO KANSU.

Some time ago Tè Hsing received orders from Peking to issue stringent instructions to those concerned to remit without fail at due date the Tls. 360,000 subsidy payable by the province of Kiangsi during the 19th year of Kuang Hsü towards the cost of administration in Kansu. It was to go forward in three instalments, namely three-tenths at the end of the 12th moon of the current year, three-tenths at the end of the 4th moon, and the remainder at the end of the 9th moon.

It was pointed out by him at the time that there would be extreme difficulty in getting the whole amount ready at the specified dates and he asked for extension and also that sanction be granted to pay two-thirds of the amount

out of the land tax and likin revenue and the remainder out of the grain transport funds as before.

He now states that owing to the distance of Kansu from Kiangsi it would be advisable to send the amounts by bank draft instead of by a *seiyüan*, and he has given orders for the first instalment of Tls. 50,000 to go forward in that way and the bankers have agreed that within 14 days the amount will be in the hands of the Governor-General of the Shenkan provinces.—*Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

6th April.

EXPLANATIONS FROM CANTON.

An official, whose name is concealed, recently represented to the Emperor that the Canton Government has failed to deal with a number of cases of public disorder or official misconduct. The Emperor consequently desired the Viceroy and the Governor to furnish him with a full report showing the exact state of the case. These authorities now present their statement, which they preface by saying that most of the charges are absolutely untrue, others inaccurate, and the rest concerned with matters which have already been dealt with and reported. It was alleged, firstly, that shops had been attacked during broad daylight in the city of Canton itself, the robbers making good their escape with their booty, after in one case killing a woman and in another a man on guard. The feeling of insecurity thus caused was said to be such that the street barricades were half closed at an early hour in the afternoon. In the reply of the memorialists the fact of the robberies is acknowledged; but they took place after dark, before the shop doors were closed, and in every case some of the robbers had been caught and executed. The street barricades have been kept as usual, being partially closed at ten o'clock and shut finally at midnight.

The second complaint had reference to the seizure of a government steam launch and her employment by the robbers to aid them in their piracies. How this affair ended, the Censor said he had never heard. As the Viceroy long ago reported, the launch was seized by pirates who went on board under the pretence of giving information. Her commander was cashiered but retained in the service to try to recover her. Sooner or later fourteen of the robbers were captured, and four of them executed summarily, the rest being otherwise dealt with.

Thirdly, the magistrate's *yomén* at Chieh-yanghsien was said to have been burnt and a quantity of public documents destroyed. The memorialists had never heard any such affair. But, having made enquiries through the Prefect of Ch'aochoufu, they find that the place never was burnt, and, when a new magistrate took over charge recently, all the archives were intact.

The fourth complaint was that there had been a six days' closing of all the shops in Fatsan on account of the misconduct of the Customs tide-waiters who had unfairly fined a merchant, and killed a woman in the disturbance which was caused by their conduct. With reference to this it is replied that last June the Customs officers found a certain shop had not reported for duty some sugared fruits and canes. They proposed to fine the merchant; but he would not submit, and both parties appealed to the Hoppo. After considering the circumstances, the Hoppo remitted the fine and allowed the merchant to enter his goods by a supplementary report, while the Customs officers were punished for their conduct, and a proclamation issued against extortion. Of course, the merchant concerned could not continue to trade while the affair remained unsettled, and those who were in the same line of business made common cause with him. But there was no general closing of shops; nor was there any general fighting or any person killed.

Lastly, the country people of Lienp'ing-chou are said to have revolted from dislike of their magistrate, and to have displayed on their banners the words "Driven into rebellion." This evidently refers to the affair of the Wu clan which was terminated and reported last autumn. None of the prisoners when examined made any statement of their having been persecuted, nor did the flags which were taken bear any inscription such as is alleged.

In conclusion the memorialists affirm that though the province of Kuangtung has not attained the perfection of order, still a great deal has been effected of late and there is much less brigandage than formerly.—*Noted.*

RECEIPTS AT THE FENGYANG CUSTOMS.

The superintendent of customs at Fengyangfu in northern Anhui presents a return of the duties collected during the twelve months from the beginning of last year to the end of the eleventh month. The fixed annual assessment for the custom-house in question was formerly Tls. 90,159 with Tls. 17,000 additional, in all

Tls. 107,159. But since the station was re-opened experimentally in the year 1876, this amount has never been obtainable. During the first twenty-two days of last year the late Superintendent collected Tls. 1,704, odd. His temporary successor, who was in charge till the 6th of the sixth month, collected Tls. 21,975, odd; and the present memorialist, between then and the end of the eleventh month, collected Tls. 30,913, odd. Total for the year, Tls. 54,593, odd. Though this sum is far below the old assessment, it still is more than in any previous year since the re-opening. The principal duty-paying article is grain, and after that, miscellaneous goods. The seasons of late have been marked by either too much or too little rain, and last year there was a serious drought. The corn crops therefore were inferior and the trade small. Again the water was low last winter in the Hungtsé Lake, and the dry summer season aggravated this. Large boats therefore could not reach Fengyang, but only small ones which did but a petty trade. Also, the merchants who deal in miscellaneous goods are fewer and poorer than they used to be. Whenever it is possible, they choose the Yangtze route, in order to have the convenience and expeditiousness of steamers. Those of them who do come to Fengyang have generally taken out transit passes, so that nothing is leviable on their goods. These reasons account for the Customs receipts not being larger.

There is a further item to be reported of Tls. 2,360, tonnage dues on salt junks collected for the Custom-house by the official at Haichou.—*Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

OPIMUM DUTY AT FENGYANG.

The same memorialist reports the amount of duty collected at Fengyang on native opium during the past year. He mentions that native and not foreign opium is principally consumed in northern Anhui, but, in spite of this fact, the duty received only amounts to Tls. 1,029.

7th April.

FUNDS FROM HONAN.

The Governor of Honan has been ordered to supply from the provincial treasury Tls. 106,000 towards the cost of the new stone embankment for the Hunho or Yungting River in the immediate neighbourhood of Peking. He reports that he has sent off the money in the charge of a sub-prefect.

8th April.

AGED GRADUATES.

Two provincial graduates in Hunan have attained the age of eighty years, and moreover have completed a cycle of sixty years since they first obtained their degree. After holding various official appointments, they have both spent many years as literary professors in public colleges. At the request of the Governor of the Province it is ordered that after the approaching examinations they be invited to attend at the banquet which is given to the newly selected graduates; and to one of them, who already holds rank of the third class, the Emperor gives a button of the second.

COPPER TRANSPORT IN YUNNAN.

T'ang Ch'ung, administrator of mines in Yunnan, asks leave to adopt a new system for transporting Government copper from Tungch'uan and Chaot'ung. Ten years ago the old routes were adopted again, and the copper from Tungch'uan was sent to Lüchow, part by Chaot'ung and part by Weining. The share which fell to the Chaot'ung route was then about 200,000 catties, while the ordinary merchandise travelling by the same road was 4,000,000 catties. The Government paid for the transport of each picul of copper a fraction under thirteen tael cents per day's journey; while merchants gave over twenty cents. Still there was no difficulty in getting animals; because the number wanted was comparatively small, and further the carriers obtained return freights by carrying Hupeh cottons to Yenchingfu. But of late the amount of copper to be carried has increased fourfold; while the return trade in cottons has decayed, and from bad seasons the price of provender has gone up immensely, being now 1,400 cash per bushel (*tau*) of maize, and 1,800 cash for rice. The freight is not enough to pay for the food of the mules and ponies, most of which have gone off to Kueichow or Szechuan, leaving only six or seven hundred animals available for government use. There are some 400,000 catties of copper detained on the road, and another 200,000 which are waiting at the mines. If nothing be done, the forwarding business will come to a complete standstill. The memorialist proposes to adopt the old system employed for lead on the Weining route, namely to pay for the transport from stage to stage, and to employ men as well as cattle to carry the copper. In these mountains men can only take fifty catties, and with the present cost of food they must be paid

good wages. It is hard to say therefore whether the new system will be as cheap as the old one, or whether it will cost a little more. At any rate it will afford a livelihood to a great number of persons. When it has been tried for a few months, permanent regulations can be made.—*Approved.*

9th April.

CEREMONIES AT EMPRESS DOWAGER'S JUBILEE.

Prince Li and his colleagues present a memorial asking for instructions as to a certain matter connected with the celebration next year of the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday. As is recorded in the Imperial Institutes, in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of Chien Lung the seventieth birthday of the then Empress Dowager was celebrated. Her Majesty was carried in a state chair from her own residence to the Imperial Palace, being conducted by the Emperor who rode before her on horseback in full dress. On the same occasion the Emperor composed some verses, which he wrote upon a screen and presented to Her Majesty. Ten years afterwards on the occasion of Her Majesty's eightieth birthday, he offered an honorific title and presented an address to her, both being written with his own hand. He also composed and gave to her a congratulatory poem in eight stanzas. At both of these birthday festivities the Emperor entertained Her Majesty at a banquet, serving her himself, and dancing before her in gay apparel. With regard to the coming festivities, the memorialists remark that the other ceremonies await His Majesty's decision at any time; but they respectfully beg that it may be notified by what route His Majesty will proceed to the Palace, so that the officers concerned may be able to make the necessary preparations.—*Decree issued separately.*

MAGISTRATE SHORT IN HIS ACCOUNTS.

Nearly five years ago the acting magistrate of Ch'eh'enghsien in Honan handed over charge to his successor, when it was found that he was indebted to the government to the amount of Tls. 4,471. He was denounced and cashiered, and when the money was still not forthcoming, he was arrested and put on his trial. It was then found that the money had not been appropriated by him to his private use; but had been spent in organising a force of militia to repress brigandage, and in supporting a large number of refugees from Shantung. He was therefore not confined in the common prison; but was merely kept in detention while efforts to recover the money

were made. His property was ordered to be sequestrated; but his possessions at his lodgings only produced Tls. 6.38, and nothing could be discovered belonging to him in either Chéchéngshien or at his home in Chékiang. The Governor now winds up the case. The penalty for the magistrate's offence is four years' banishment; but as the defalcation occurred before the last Act of Grace, the penalty may be remitted. However, neither the punishment nor the pardon much matter to the offender, as he died some time ago. Two Treasury clerks and the deceased magistrate's private employé have been arrested. For not preventing or reporting the misappropriation they are liable to receive eighty blows each, but they escape on account of the Act of Grace.—*Referred to the Board concerned.*

TROOPS FOR SHASHIH.

The High Authorities for Hupeh report that the people of Shashih have raised a battalion of militia to protect their town. The memorialists remark that Shashih is a most important place by reason both of its position and of its commerce. The year before last certain leaders of secret societies were arrested and executed at Yochou, Shashih and Wuchang Hsien, all of whom had agreed to meet at Shashih and there break into open rebellion; and last year there was an actual outbreak at Linhsiang in the adjoining prefecture of Yochou. The local authorities were therefore desired to call upon the principal inhabitants of Shashih to take immediate steps for the protection of the town. It was accordingly arranged that two hundred and fifty men should be enrolled, to form the core of a battalion of militia, and that the people of Shashih should contribute the necessary funds for their support. It was at the same time definitely agreed that this arrangement should only last for eighteen months, namely to the end of the present year. After that, either the force should be disbanded, or, if circumstances showed that its retention were necessary, an appeal should be made to the provincial government to decide how the money for its support should be provided.—*Approved.*

10th April.

OFFICIALS RECOMMENDED IN KIANGSI.

The Viceroy at Nanking recommends to the favourable notice of the Emperor eight officials who have been in charge of prefectures or magistracies, and whose merits are universally recognised by the public. One of those mentioned by the memorialist

is Wang Jen-k'an, prefect at Chinking, who is declared to be both a learned scholar and a good practical administrator. He is specially distinguished by the trouble that he has taken in alleviating distress. He managed with skill matters affecting the people and the Christians; and he promises some day to attain a high position. Another is Lu Yuan-ping, formerly acting at Shanghai, but now magistrate at Nanking. He is a strong, intelligent and upright man. At Shanghai he gained the esteem of both Chinese and foreigners by his impartiality in the transaction of international business. Afterwards again at Jukaohsien his complete disregard of his pecuniary interest showed him to be an exceptional man. A third is Wang Chih-lan, magistrate at Chinking, who has displayed the greatest care and affection for his people during the recent period of distress.

In reply the Emperor desires the Viceroy to convey to these eight officials the assurance of His Majesty's approbation.

OFFICIALS DENOUNCED.

The same memorialist denounces three, officials, of whom he recommends one to be cashiered, and the others to be withdrawn from their posts. Among the latter is the prefect at Yangchow, a post of extreme importance. This officer is declared by the memorialist to be a gentleman and a scholar; but he is wanting in practical ability, and exercises no supervision over the numerous mandarins who are his subordinates. He was recently summoned to Nanking and cautioned; but the memorialist is disappointed to find that this did not have the good effect which he had expected.—*Decree issued separately.*

NATIVE CUSTOMS RECEIPTS AT SHANGHAI.

The Governor of Kiangsu reports the amount collected at the Shanghai native Custom House during twelve months ended last May. The fixed annual assessment altogether comes to Tls. 65,980. The amount collected on junk cargoes was Tls. 33,937. There is also to be counted Tls. 7,350, for duties remitted to junks carrying tribute rice and Tls. 25,000 allowed on account of cargo belonging to Chinese traders carried by the China Merchants' steamships. These make a total of Tls. 66,287, or Tls. 307 above the fixed assessment. Whether future years will show an excess the memorialist is unable to say. There is a further item, namely the duty on tea carried by junks to the north. At the time of the Taiping rebellion this was fixed by

the Board of Revenue at an assessment of Tls. 120,000. But afterwards when Chinkiang and Yangchow were recovered, the tea was sent by the inland route again, and it was arranged that the duty should be collected without any fixed assessment. The amount for the year under this head is Tls. 7,078.—*Noted.*

11th April.

PRISONER ALLOWED TO ESCAPE.

The Governor of Formosa reports the sentence passed by him on two officers for allowing a prisoner to escape. The prisoner was an official named Kao Teng-yü, who for some offence which is not stated had been condemned to servitude on the government post-roads. While waiting for the Emperor's confirmation of his sentence, he was placed under the charge of two military officers. These men took up their abode with him in his lodgings; but as he had his family with him they lived in an outside room, while he slept in an inner one. As he became ill, he remained in bed without coming out, of which they took no notice; and after a few days he made his escape by a back door. The two officers have been tried for being accomplices in his flight, but the judge found that they had not taken money or purposely allowed him to escape. The memorialist, however, decides that they were guilty of great carelessness, and condemns them to two months' banishment in addition to being cashiered. They both plead that they are the only sons of aged mothers, who are dependent upon them for support, but the Governor will enquire into the truth of this story before taking it into account.—*Referred to the Board of Justice.*

FAMINE FUNDS SENT TO SHANSI.

The Governor of Kiangsu represents that he recently received from the high authorities of Shansi an urgent appeal for pecuniary assistance on account of the great amount of distress prevailing in different parts of that province. He therefore sent them ten thousand taels, six thousand of which came from the Shanghai Likin Office, and four thousand from the Soochow Office. The money was remitted through a native bank about the middle of last February.—*Approved.*

12th April.

JUBILEE PREPARATIONS.

The Festivity Commissioners have asked for the Emperor's instructions on certain points connected with the celebration of

the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday. They say on similar occasions in the reign of the Emperor Chien Lung, the shop fronts were redecorated along the streets between the Hsihua Gate and the Hsichih Gate; also there were altars erected for the Lamas, theatrical stages, and images of animate and inanimate objects. They wish to know if the precedent should be followed on the present occasion. The Emperor, having referred the question to Her Majesty, directs that the roads to be traversed by the procession be made smooth, the shop fronts slightly redecorated, and the other things be done as may seem advisable, without too great splendour or extravagance.

TROOP HORSES AT CANTON.

Thirty years ago instructions were issued by the Emperor that the high authorities in the provinces must send in an annual return of the horses in their charge, both those kept for military purposes and those used for the government couriers. In accordance with these instructions the Tartar-General at Canton reports the number belonging to the permanent garrison in that city. At the beginning of last year the garrison horses numbered 480, of which 32 have died and will be replaced immediately. The losses thus amount to much less than the authorised number of re-mounts, which is fifteen per cent.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE IN KANSU.

The Governor-General for Kansu reports that during the past year (1891) Tls. 190,586 were spent on the army of that province.

13th April.

HANDSOME CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF DISTRESSED DISTRICTS.

Li Han-chang reports that when last year there was great distress on account of drought in the districts of Kiangsu and Kiangning, he was asked by Lui K'un-yi to invite subscriptions in aid of the sufferers. The many calls that have lately been made on the charitable have somewhat exhausted their resources, but yet memorialist is very pleased to be in a position to state that two very handsome contributions of Tls. 10,000 each have been made by the Magistrates of the Nanhai and P'an-yü Districts who both come from the lower Yangtze provinces. Although they personally do not wish any notice to be taken of their generous action, memorialist would venture to recommend them both for promotion.—*Request granted.*

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE.

Ch'ang-Shun, Governor of Kirin, reports that it is his intention as soon as the ice clears away, to make a personal inspection of the defences of the Sunghua river which forms the boundary between Kirin and Heilungchiang. When that is over he is very anxious to visit his ancestral graves at P'uteha for the purpose of putting them in a proper state of repair and would consequently venture to apply for two months' leave during which time, if approved, the Deputy Lieut.-General could act for him.—*Leave granted.*

COLLECTION OF GINSENG.

Chang Shun reports the return from an expedition to collect ginseng of certain officers whom he sent out. They have brought back of large stemmed mountain ginseng ten roots and of the smaller stemmed sixteen roots, weighing 8.10 oz. and of good quality. The expenses, wages, etc., amount to Tls. 1,684.25 which will as usual be defrayed out of the ginseng duty. He has had the roots carefully examined and securely packed in two small boxes which he is forwarding by special messenger to Peking.

14th April.

DISTRESS IN SHENSI.

Lu Chuan-lin, the Governor of Shensi, enters into details regarding the difficulties he has in collecting the full amount of revenue in the mountainous districts in the north of his province. Yeunan, Yülin, Suité and Fuchou have of late years been visited with one calamity after another. First it has been drought and then early frost that has destroyed the crops, and the result is that the inhabitants are in great straits and know not where to lay their hands on their daily bread, much less on what is required to pay their taxes. The only thing to be done is to remit taxation for the time being in the hope of better days and in order to meet the pressing demands for funds to buy food for the needy, he proposes to appropriate Tls. 50,000 out of the Tls. 100,000 he has to remit annually to Peking now that the bodies of 'braves' have been disbanded. Should this not suffice, he will have to find other means of supplying their wants.—*Sanctions.*

REVENUE IN KIRIN.

The amount of duty collected in Kirin since the beginning of the year up to the end of the 10th moon is reported by Chang Shun to be only Tls. 3,034.13, and to judge

from the dullness of trade it is hardly likely that the full amount can be made up. The explanation given is that for several years past the natural products of the province have gradually fallen off and that in the eastern part of the province anything there was to export had been taken south by steamers from Vladivostock. The increasing immigration and consequent clearing of forests has driven away the wild animals, which contributed not a little to the revenue in the shape of duty on their horns and hides. Memorialist has made enquiries into the matter, and according to the statements universally collected, it appears that the duty leviable in the Kirin province was levied on thirty-six products of land and sea. The revenue on oil made from plants of the hemp species, from indigo and similar articles has greatly decreased of late years, and the principal articles that one has to rely on now to make up the deficit in the duty returns are deer horns, ginseng and hides, but the quantities of these, however, do not reach the figures of former days and this is why memorialist has to face a deficit of over Tls. 4,000. He has given strict instructions that every precaution be taken against attempts to defraud, but he fears it will be impossible to make good the amount.—*Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

15th April.

No papers of interest.

16th April.

DEATH OF CH'EN SHIH-CHIEH.

The Governor of Hunan reports that in the 12th year of Kuang Hsü, Ch'ên Shih-chieh, late Governor of Shantung, applied for leave to return to his home and put his ancestral graves in order. When he had completed this work he was seized with an attack of his old complaint and as his house at Kueiyangchow was too dilapidated to live in, he rented a house at Hengchoufu where he died on the 6th of January. His family sent a servant to announce the news of his death to memorialist together with a request that he address the Throne on their behalf. Ch'ên Shih-chieh commenced his career as a Senior Licentiate and shortly afterwards obtained a minor appointment in the Board of Revenue. In 1851 he went into mourning. It so happened that at that time the late Grand Secretary, Tsêng Kuo-fan, was regulating the trainband system at Hengchou and he got Ch'ên Shih-chieh to render him very

valuable assistance. He also materially aided Lo Ping-chang and other Governors in the same matter, and took a great interest in the organisation of the Kuangjou *chia* which so successfully resisted the inroads of the rebels. When Soochow was taken, Tseng Kuo-fan, recognising Ch'en's great ability, recommended him for the post of Provincial Judge of Kiangsu, but as he wished in these troublous times to be near his parents this appointment was changed to that of Provincial Judge, Shantung. Thereafter he successively filled the posts of Governor in Chékiang and Shantung, and while in the former province he executed a very great work, namely the replacing of the mud seawalls, which had to be repaired annually, by a substantial stone embankment. The labour was of course ten times greater than that of former years but the cost was reduced by four-fifths. He was vehemently attacked by all interested in the seawalls, but his policy was vindicated in that for ten years no repairs whatever to the embankment were found necessary. When transferred to Shantung he was extremely successful in dealing with the Yellow River and greatly impressed all who came in contact with him. In matters connected with the public service he never spared himself and it is to the constant exposure and hard work that the illness which caused his death is to be attributed. He leaves nine sons, eight of whom hold official positions throughout the Empire.—*Decree published separately.*

GOLD MINING ON THE AMUR.

After the mines at Moho had been working for some three years Li, Hung-chang drew up a list of civil and military officials connected therewith whom he recommended for rewards. To this the Boards of Civil Office and of War objected on the ground that no returns of the output of gold had been furnished since the 10th moon of Kuang Hsi, XV, and they were hence unable to judge whether the officers in question were entitled to rewards or not. Li now explains that he has made good the deficiency by sending a complete return of the gold obtained and goes on to state that the officers whom he recommended eminently deserve promotion in that they are engaged in opening up a very profitable industry, and while so doing are exposed to hardships of no ordinary nature. During the last three years the value of the gold obtained was over Tls. 63,000.—*Let the Board consider and report.*

ICHANG CUSTOMS REVENUE.

From the 1st of October to the 31st of December 1892, the duty collected at Ichang was Tls. 36,231.43. From this have to be deducted Tls. 15,393.14 for the expenses of the Custom house, etc., and Tls. 27,873.18 in settlement of the riot claims. This shows an excess of expenditure over revenue of some Tls. 7,035 which has been made up out of the balance remaining over from the previous quarter. No duty has been collected on opium nor have any foreign merchants paid tonnage dues on foreign-owned vessels of native build.

17th April.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR AGED GRADUATES.

Wu Ta-cheng, governor of Hunan, applies for Imperial sanction to invite two aged graduates, with the degree of *Chü-jen*, who are 87 and 83 years old and who have this year completed the 60th anniversary of their examination, to the *Lahing* banquet for the second time.—*Degree to be published separately.*

18th April.

PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF EMPRESS DOWAGER'S BIRTHDAY.

On the 3rd of February Prince Li and others received the following decree. "Prince Li and the Board of Civil Rites, who are entrusted with the management of all ceremonies connected with the anniversary have asked at what point her Majesty the Empress Dowager proposes to ascend her chariot on the occasion of her progress from the Iho garden to the Palace in connection with the celebrations in honour of Her Majesty's 60th birthday, and along what route the procession is to take place. On referring the matter to Her Majesty, she instructed us to state that she proposes to ascend her chariot at the decorated pavilion outside the Tungkung gate of the Iho garden. She will then proceed along the stone road until the Tung'ang is reached. A short halt will be made there and the city be entered by the Hsichih gate and then the procession will go through the T'iau and Hsihua gates. Inside the Hsihua gate and at the pavilion outside the Hsienan gate the chariot will stop and Her Majesty will return to the palace by chair. On that day we will on our knees at the head of the princes, nobles and other officers reverently see the chariot depart from the Tungkung gate. We will then escort it as far as the P'ai-lou where we shall mount a steed and ride ahead until the stone road is reached.

There we will get into a chair and await H-r Majesty's arrival on our knees inside the Hsihwa gate. The princes and nobles will do the same outside the gate. Every *yamen* concerned shall take every precaution to have all things duly prepared and in order.

The Imperial Household (*Nei-ten-fu*) ventures to point out that several precedents exist for the following. During the reign of Ch'ienlung the road from the Hsihwa gate to the Hsiehieh gate was thoroughly repaired and put in order, altars, pavilions, etc., were erected on either side and from the Ch'angch'un bridge to the Kuoliang bridge platforms and theatres were put up. We (who have drafted this memorial) reverently suggest that the Peking Gendarmerie be directed to enquire into this matter and to see what steps can be taken in order to carry out something similar to the above on the occasion of H-r Majesty the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday next year.

YUNGTING RIVER WORKS.

From station No. 1 to station No. 8 on the Peishan section of the Yungting river it is proposed to erect a stone embankment of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ li in length at a cost of over Tls. 544,800, for which money application has been made to the Board. The two Boards of Works and of Revenue, when the matter was referred to them, approved of the scheme and suggested that some high official in Chihli be appointed to superintend the operations and that a stipulation be made that the work be finished in three years. During the present year the province of Honan and the Customs' stations at Yangchow and Fengyang have been ordered to furnish Tls. 190,000, and the rest will be paid in yearly instalments as soon as directions have been issued as to how the cost is to be divided up. Wages and rewards which are estimated at Tls. 30,000 are to be paid by Chihli.

Li Hung-chang points out that the building of this stone embankment is not only a safeguard to the capital, but a matter of life and death to the inhabitants of the lower districts and ought to be commenced without delay. It is, however, a work of great difficulty and enormous cost which can only be prosecuted during five or six months of the year. He has already published details of the scheme and now proposes to appoint as chief superintendent of the execution thereof Chou Fu, Provincial Judge for Chihli, who has had great experience of such work and who moreover surveyed the ground and drew

up the estimates in the first instance. In addition to him memorialist proposes to appoint Chang Lien-fen, an Expectant Taotai, who has already been employed on the Yungting river, Tou Yen-hsing, an Expectant Taotai, who for years was a *weiyuen* attached to the river office, and the Intendant of the Yungting river Circuit, Wan Pei-yin. Chou Fu will make periodical visits of inspection and Chang Lien-fen will be the permanent resident superintendent. Work was commenced on the 1st of April and as one of the most important points is that material should be collected and made available on the spot, the officers in charge were directed to take advantage of the slack season as far as agriculture is concerned and the low price of cartage to get together as much as possible. Owing to the high rates for labour round about Luk'ouch'iao it has been impossible to hire as many labourers as required and bodies of 'braves' have been sent to aid the workmen. For digging purposes the supply of poor people is amply sufficient and it is matter for congratulation that it is possible to relieve their distress and carry on a useful public work at the same time—*Let the Board concerned take note.*

19th April.

FAMINE IN SHANSI.

The Censor Wang Li-siao draws the very special attention of the Throne to the extreme distress prevailing at present in the province of Shansi. He has made enquires amongst the people and he is told that it was only towards the end of the 6th moon last year that rain fell. This although late left some hope of a fair harvest, when contrary to all expectation early frost ruined the crops in the northern part of the province and excessive rains those in the southern districts. The inhabitants of more than fifty-seven *chots* and *hsiens* were left at the commencement of the winter with hunger staring them in the face. In the Kueihua and Suiyuan circuits alone over 520,000 persons were receiving relief. The sufferings of the people are something awful to witness. Memorialist would point out that during the famine of the 3rd and 4th years of Kuang Hsi in this same province the Emperor was graciously pleased to distribute large sums of money and tribute rice, by which means people were raised from the gutter to a well-furnished table. Now that misfortune has again overtaken them something must be done or a repetition of what took place during the former famine is greatly to

be feared. He would therefore earnestly pray that some steps be taken to have all available money and grain distributed amongst them with as little delay as possible.

In a postscript memorial he further prays that all the territorial officials be severely cautioned against attempting to levy exactions from those who have been asked to contribute according to their means. This was very frequently done during the last famine until Tseng Kuo-ch'üan had a district magistrate summarily beheaded.

Yün Yen-pin, Chief Supervisor of Imperial Instruction, has a memorial on the same subject. He states that seven districts just outside the borders of the province, and Tat'ung and Sop'ing closely adjoining the frontier had their crops ruined first by drought and then by excessive rain followed by hail and snow. The result is that there was not a grain of any crop harvested and the people having no savings are awaiting death with folded hands. This state of things in a severe winter such as the last, has been productive of the greatest suffering and although many attempts at relief have been made it has been impossible to feed all the starving people. The strong have left their homes, the weak have died at the roadside, and something must be done to alleviate the misery of these poor wretches.

20th April.

RELIEF MEASURES IN SHANSI.

The Governor of Shansi gives a long and detailed account of what he has been doing to cope with the distress prevalent in the province under his jurisdiction. After touching briefly upon central Shansi, he passes on to the northern portion, where, as is well known, the suffering is far more severe. There, in the region inside the wall, the state of affairs in worst in Yingchow, Tat'unghsien, Shanyin, Huaijen and Yuyü; and next in Suchou and Taichou. Beyond the wall, the first place is taken by Fengchent'ing; while next come Kueihua and Ningyuan, and after them Salach'i, T'ok'ot'o, Holink'erh and Ch'ingshuiho. The great extent of this area rendered it necessary that there should be several centres for the distribution of food and seed-corn. In the first place, 10,000 piculs of grain were taken from the military stores at Kolanchow, and sent to a convenient spot in Shanyin for the use of the people around. The Colonel at Paot'ou was put in charge of the transport service; a number of officials were sent to buy grain in the nearest districts which had any; and

a central relief office was established at Kueihuach'eng. In these various duties more than thirty officials were specially employed, besides the local authorities and gentry.

In Yingchow, Tat'ung, Huaijen and Shanyin, during last winter there were employed for relief purposes 21,000 piculs of grain from the public granaries on the spot, and Tls. 14,000 of charity funds. Part of the above was distributed in the form of corn or cash, and part was expended on soup-kitchens and temporary refuges. To help the people this spring, Tls. 20,000 have been set apart by the government, and 14,000 piculs of grain taken from Hunyuan and other places. In Yuyü, besides the military rice made use of last year, 7,000 piculs of corn have been issued from the Fengpei and other granaries for the present Spring. In Suchou, in addition to grain and money in the winter, there have been distributed from three relieving offices 3,000 piculs of military rice and 6,000 strings of cash, the latter having been collected by voluntary subscriptions. In Taichou the further distribution this spring amounts to 8,000 piculs grain from military stores; while in Yangkao and T'ienchen, the distress being less, the authorities have been able to meet it from local resources, giving out respectively 6,000 piculs and 3,000 piculs, for food and seed-corn.

Beyond the wall, Fengchent'ing has received Tls. 90,000 of public money besides 7,000 piculs of corn from the granaries and 5,000 piculs collected by contributions. The money has been spent in purchasing grain and in the establishment of refuges for children under fifteen years of age. A distribution of one month's food was made in the first month of the year, and the same will be done both in the second and the third month; also seed-corn will be given away. In Ningyuan, besides what was done previously, Tls. 23,000 of public money and 5,000 piculs of grain are being issued. In Kueihua not only were there private subscriptions amounting to Tls. 10,000 and a gift from the public famine fund; but for the spring Tls. 30,000 were advanced from the treasury at Suiyuant'ing. In Salach'i, T'ok'ot'o, Holink'erh, and Ch'ingshuiho, relief has been issued during the winter to an amount not stated. In these four districts and Kueihua together, counting two children as one grown up person, the number of people in distress is estimated at more than five hundred thousand. One distribution of food took place in the first month, exhausting about 48,000 piculs of grain.

As on account of the snow which has fallen, the season is favourable just now for sowing, half a month's supply of grain will be issued immediately for seed-corn; and food will be given out again in the second and third month. To accomplish this it is certain that another Tls. 10,000 will be wanted, beyond the Tls. 25,000 already appropriated. It is to be anticipated that not even this will be enough, as it will not be possible to stop all relief after the third month, and moreover, outsiders cannot be kept from coming into the district to share in what is being given away. But the memorialist has received a telegram from Shanghai saying that Mr. Shih Shanch'ang and other gentlemen have raised Tls. 50,000, and the same sum is promised from Tientsin. With these and the further grant of Tls. 100,000 from Peking, the memorialist hopes that there will be enough. Grain was purchased locally to the amount of 80,000 piculs; and 50,000 piculs have been bought at Ninghsia in Kansu. The latter will come by water when the river opens, and should reach Paot'ou in the third month. More can be procured in Ninghsia if required.

In conclusion, the memorialist says that raising funds in Shansi is not an easy task. For the country has never fully recovered from the effects of the great famine; and the rich people of the province have in recent years sent away as much as five or six hundred thousand taels in subscriptions to funds in other parts of the Empire.—*Noted.*

RAISING OF FAMINE FUNDS IN SHANSI.

According to a memorial from the Governor of Shansi the Governor himself contributed Tls. 1,000 to the provincial famine fund; the Treasurer, Tls. 1,000; the Chief Justice Tls. 800; other officials, from Taotais down to magistrates, in all Tls. 20,000; the salt merchants, Tls. 80,000; and wealthy gentlemen throughout the province, Tls. 300,000. This latter sum was raised by assessing each district at a certain sum, and sending officers to invite the people to subscribe and make up the amount. Whatever each man gave was written on a list and posted up in the place, so that there could be no doubt as to its having been received. The rich men came forward willingly and in a month or more the whole business was done. Where it was found that the estimate was too large for the means of the people, a less sum was accepted; and where, as in Hochou, T'ai ping and Hsiangling, the subscriptions came to more than

the assessment, the surplus was retained for local works. No assessment at all was made on the famine districts or other very poor localities; but subscriptions have been accepted from any benevolent persons in such places who came forward of their own accord. The memorialist also deals with a complaint which has been made to the Emperor by a certain Censor, to the effect that the district magistrates have made the collection of contributions an excuse for extorting money for themselves. The memorialist can find no sign of any such thing having taken place, no complaint has reached him; and, as the Censor mentions no names of people or places, he has no means of sifting the matter. Purchasers of grain from outside the province have been given passes to free them from duty. There never has been any likin on grain inside the province; so there was nothing to be done there in the way of remission. But the magistrates have been ordered to facilitate the transport of grain in every possible way.—*Noted.*

21st and 22nd April.

MURDER OF HUSBAND.

The Governor of Turkestan reports the conviction of a Mahomedan woman in Kharashar for the murder of her husband. The man Wuyuf and his wife Joutsewani had lived happily together, till one day three years ago the husband began to praise the beauty of a young woman who dwelt close by. This made the wife suspect the existence of an intrigue between her husband and the neighbour; and her suspicions became a positive conviction, when a couple of months afterwards he went out one evening before dark and did not come back till midnight. On his return she taxed him repeatedly with unfaithfulness. He lost his temper, abused her and flogged her with the handle of a hoe. Wresting the weapon from him in a passion, she struck wildly at him. The blade caught him on the temple and he fell. The wounded man's mother came in and attended to his wound, but he died from it next morning. As the wife was with child, the mother concealed the murder, and buried the corpse with the aid of a beggar who was passing by. Nearly a year and a half afterwards the affair came to the ears of the magistrate. The woman was arrested, tried and convicted, and in accordance with the law she has sentenced to decapitation without delay. The mother is liable to punishment for not reporting the death; but it is proposed that she should be pardoned on account of the

reason for which she concealed it. The *lipao* is sentenced to receive eighty blows and to be dismissed from his post, on account of his negligence in not discovering the affair; it remains for the Board to determine what penalty should be inflicted on the local magistrate for the laxity of his supervision.—*Referred to the Board of Justice.*

DEATH OF WANG TE-PANG.

An Imperial Decree notices the death of Wang Tè-pang. The deceased in early life raised a force in his native district to fight against the Taipings. He afterwards took part to the re-conquest of Kiangsi and Anhui, when he was wounded several times. He again fought with distinction in Chekiang, Fukien, Kuangtung, Kuangsi, Kansu and Turkestan. At the time of his death he was Provincial Treasurer in Kueichow, where he proved himself equal to the duties of his post. He will receive the marks of compassion ordinarily bestowed on an officer of his rank, and his military exploits will be recorded in the national annals.

A DISTINGUISHED MILITARY CAREER.

A memorial from the Governor of Shensi narrates the career of a distinguished old soldier, General Lin Ch'èng-hsing, who died last year. The deceased was a Nanking man and enlisted as a common soldier in the year 1857. He took part in many severe fights, and in five years' time had risen to the rank of Lieutenant: In five years more he had become a Major, and in 1868 he was granted the title of Baturu for his share in the destruction of the Nienfei army that threatened Peking. In 1870 he served as chief of the staff to General Chang Shu-sheng, who prevented the Shensi Mahomedans from crossing the Yellow River into Shansi. From 1873 to 1876 he was constantly fighting in Shensi and obtained the Brevet Rank of General. When the Shansi famine commenced, he was engaged in keeping order upon the frontier of the province, where the people were much disturbed. At this time he and General Chang Shu-sheng captured and executed the Kansu brigand chief Ts'ao Hung-chao, who, with a large body of followers, threatened to penetrate into the centre of the Empire. Afterwards he was stationed as General at T'ai-yuan and Tat'ung, where he remained till his death. A temple has been erected in memory of General Chang Shu-sheng, and it is requested that the name of Lin Ch'èng-hsing may be honoured with a place in the same shrine.—*Granted.*

23rd April.

EXAMINATIONS IN SHANTUNG.

The Literary Chancellor of Shantung reports that he has completed the Prefectural Examinations throughout the province. The scholars of Tengchow, Laichow and Ch'ingchow distinguished themselves most highly in the literary examinations, while the men of Yenchow and Tsaochow did best in the military competition. Still there were not wanting men from other parts who could draw the strong bow and shoot with correct aim; and the scholars generally throughout the province showed by their industry and learning that the influence of Confucius is still felt in the country which was his native home.

24th April.

FAMINE IN SHANSI—MORE FUNDS.

An Imperial Decree orders more government funds to be devoted to the relief of the sufferers from famine in Shansi. The central government has already sent Tls. 100,000 from its own treasury. The province of Shansi itself has raised and expended Tls. 250,000, besides several tens of thousands of piculs of grain. Hsü T'ung and other Peking officials have subscribed 20,000 piculs. Li Hung-chang has collected contributions to the amount of Tls. 200,000. Though these gifts should be enough to keep the people from actual starvation; still there is wide-spread distress, which cannot but last for a long time. The Emperor therefore commands that the tribute rice from Hunan and Hupeh for this year, amounting to 65,000 piculs, be turned into money, and sent with all speed to Li Hung-chang, who will deliver it to the officials engaged in the distribution of relief.

TRIBUTE RICE FROM KIANGSU.

The Governor of Kiangsu presents a report concerning the tribute rice for this year from the part of Kiangsu south of the Yangtze. One hundred thousand piculs of it will be sent to Peking by the Grand Canal, and sixty thousand piculs are retained for the relief of distress in the Chinkiang and Yangchow neighbourhood; while the remainder will be despatched as usual by sea, partly by junk and partly by the steamers of the China Merchants' Company. The first fleet of junks consisted of sixty vessels, and they have been laden with 140,000 piculs of rice. By the 23rd of March they had all been laden and left Shanghai for the port of Shihhsiao in Tsungming, whence they would sail northward with the first favourable wind.

TRIBUTE RICE FROM CHEKIANG.

This year the Province of Chékiang will send to Peking 399,600 piculs of tribute rice, all of which will be conveyed to Tientsin by sea. The first portion of it, amounting to 231,000 piculs, has already been carried to Shanghai by the inland waters, 141,000 piculs have been set apart for the China Merchants' steamers, and the remaining 90,000 piculs have been entrusted to a fleet of junks which left Shanghai for Shihhsiao on the 25th of March last.

25th April.

DISPOSAL OF CHEKIANG SALT FUNDS.

The Governor of Chékiang has been ordered to send the Peking Government Tls. 220,000, and the Imperial Household Tls. 50,000, from the duty and likin collected by him on salt during the present year. In accordance with these instructions he has now despatched Tls. 80,000 in the charge of an officer, who will travel by steamer from Shanghai to Tientsin.

MILITARY FARMS IN KOBDO.

The ten military farms in Kobdo produced last year 7,493 piculs of grain. Of this, 760 piculs have been retained at the farms for seed, and the remainder lodged in the Kobdo granary. The crop is thirty per cent. above the fixed estimate, and therefore rewards are requested, according to precedent, for the officers and head labourers at the farms.

CORPSE OF MONGOL OFFICER SENT HOME.

The Mongol Assistant Military Governor at Uliasuta, Chelintorchi by name, died at his post just at the end of last February. Temuchikotorchi, the son whom the deceased had chosen as his successor, has addressed the Governor with reference to the transportation of his father's remains. He is anxious to take them away at once, as there are rivers to be crossed, the Kherlon, Tula and others; and this will be a difficult matter as soon as the ice melts in the spring. He proposes to start on the 30th March, and to follow the Urga road to a point near that city, when he will branch off to his home in the Tsé'sen Khanate. He begs that the authorised facilities for travelling may be granted to him at the stations along the road. The memorialist has given his consent to the proposal, has furnished the applicant with a military escort, and has sent the necessary instructions to the post stations.

26th April.

WATERING TREES AT THE IMPERIAL TOMBS.

A few years ago a second band of trees was planted round the tombs of the Emperor Tao Kuang and his consort. The number of these trees was nine thousand five hundred and forty. An allowance of two thousand taels was given to enable them to be watered four times every spring. The three years for which it was granted have now expired, and the Emperor is requested to authorise its continuance for three years more. The trees were planted in very rocky ground, holes having to be cut for them in the stone. It is feared that, if they be left to themselves, they will perish in the dry season; in which case the shade and shelter that they afford will be lost to the tombs.—*Referred to the Board.*

27th April.

KALGAN CUSTOMS' RETURNS.

Pu T'ing, Customs Superintendent at Kalgan, reports that during the year ended the 1st day of the tenth moon of Kuang Hsü XVIII he collected duty to the extent of Tls. 38,754.86 and 3,349 *tiao* of cash equal to Tls. 2,233.84, a total of Tls. 40,988.70. Of this sum Tls. 20,004.21 must be deducted on account of the ordinary regulation amount of duty that has annually to be collected at this station, which leaves a balance of Tls. 20,983.89 on account of supernumerary duty, or a deficit under this head of Tls. 19,572.90. Memorialist would point out that of this sum Tls. 5,658.89 was short collected by his predecessor who who remained in charge for some time before he himself took up his post and that the deficit he has to account for is Tls. 13,914.10. The chief sources of revenue of the Kalgan Customs have been tea from the South, hides from Chiakotu, and cattle imported by merchants in China. Since trade with Russia has been opened up the Russians do their own tea importation and need not pay duty. The Chinese merchants have likewise gradually decreased in numbers and the result is that the amount of duty annually collected has greatly fallen off. Memorialist has used every endeavour to maintain the former standard, but has found it impossible. The past season has proved a very deadly one to all live stock on account of a protracted dry season followed by heavy rains. After paying all expenses there remains a net balance of Tls. 5,090.08 which memorialist has brought to Peking with him, and with regard to which he would be glad to

receive instructions. He would request that in accordance with former precedents a deduction of about 44 per cent. be allowed him on the sum he has to make good and that he be permitted to refund it in instalments.—*Decree already published.*

COMPLAINT ABOUT INTERFERENCE OF THE BOARD OF WAR.

Some time ago Liu Ping-chang, Governor-General of Szechuan, reported the stamping out of an outbreak of the aboriginal tribes in the north of his province and recommended for promotion nine officers who had distinguished themselves in connection with this matter. The Board made objection to this recommendation on the ground that the services rendered did not justify the promotions. *Memorialist* has to point out that it was entirely owing to the officers in question that this insurrection did not prove a very serious matter indeed, and that moreover the rescript on the original memorial was "Let the Board concerned take note" not "Let the Board concerned consider and report," and their action is accordingly extremely uncalled for. In a question of this kind memorialist always uses extreme caution and does not indulge in reckless recommendation. Compared with other lists that have been sent in from elsewhere his is a very moderate one and he sincerely trusts that the Throne will not allow merit to be passed over in silence. He again submits his list and begs that it be sanctioned.—*Request granted.*

28th April.

RELIEF FOR SHANSI FAMINE.

Li Hung-chang hands in copy of a report drawn up by certain of the Chihli gentry in which they give a very graphic picture of the distress prevailing throughout Shansi. Hungry crowds line the roads and those that are alive in the morning know not whether they can live until the evening. Male children are abandoned and female children are sold. Nor can this state of things be remedied as it is only in the fourth moon that vegetation springs up and in the meantime everything edible will have been consumed. Although heavy calls were made the year before last on the purses of the benevolent on account of the Shantung floods and some Tls. 65,000 subscribed, yet it was felt that something must be done to relieve such great misery and a subscription list was opened which in a short time produced Tls. 100,000.

Memorialist specifies several donors of large amounts and as they have on previous occasions generously assisted all distress

he suggests that they receive some reward.—*Request granted. Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

29th April.

No documents of interest.

30th April.

DEATH OF WANG TE-PANG.

Sung-fan, Governor of Kueichow, reports the death on the 28th of February of Wang Te-pang, Provincial Treasurer of his province and gives a summary of his career. The deceased, who was a native of Yungchow, Huanan, first distinguished himself in the campaigns against the Taiping rebels and was wounded at the retaking of Juichow. For his services he was successively rewarded with the peacock's feather and the title of Bat'uru, afterwards obtaining in the fourth year of Tung Chih the position of Provincial Judge in Fukien. Towards the end of that year he received the Yellow Riding Jacket, and after clearing the rebels out of the Fukien province applied for leave to visit his parents who were old and in need of his support. During the years that followed he held several important posts, the duties of all of which he discharged to the great satisfaction of all concerned, making himself beloved by all who came in contact with him. He came to Kueichow as Provincial Treasurer three years ago, and remained in health until the spring of this year when his old wounds broke out anew and medical skill being of no avail he died.—*Decree published separately.*

1st May.

APPOINTMENTS.

(1) Hsü Ching-ch'eng (Minister to Russia, Germany etc.) is appointed Sub chancellor of the Grand Secretariat with brevet rank as Vice-President of a Board.

(2) Huang Yü-en is appointed Provincial Treasurer of Fukien.

(3) Chao Shu-ch'iao to be Provincial Judge of Chêkiang.

No documents of interest.

2nd May.

APPOINTMENTS.

(1) Yüan Shih-k'ai to be Ta-tai at Wênchow, Chêkiang.

(2) The post of prefect at Canton is to be filled by the selection of the most capable officer of that rank in the Kuangtung province, the vacancy thus created to be filled by Wen K'aug.

CASE OF MURDER IN SHENGCHING.

Liu Tien-sheng, a native of the K'ai-yüan district, owed over a hundred tiao

to his uncle Liu-lien on account of a gambling debt, in satisfaction whereof he had in the course of several years only tendered 20 ounces of opium, on which no value had been placed. In the 12th moon of last year Liu-lien and his son Liu Tien-chen went to Liu Tien-sheng's house armed with knives and other implements to force him to pay this debt. On his expressing his inability to meet their demands they proceeded to drive off two cows of his which were tethered in the yard. Tien-sheng objected to this and in the course of argument they came to blows; he then went into the house and got a spear with which he attacked Liu-lien and his son, he also got his brothers Tien-wan and Siao-shih to aid him and between them they inflicted such injuries on the other two that they died. Tien-sheng thereupon proceeded to his uncle's house to take the lives of Liu-lien's other two sons in order that there might be no one to avenge the first murder. With the assistance of his brothers he succeeded in likewise killing them. They then took the bodies on a plough to the river (Liao) bank and, stripping off the clothes, which they burned, buried them in a hole in the ice. News of the double murder had, however, got abroad and Liu Tien-sheng was arrested before he could make good his escape. He has accordingly been sentenced to immediate execution by the *ling ch'ih* process, and his head will be exhibited as a warning to others. All his property will revert to the senior of Liu-lien's family, Liu Hsiao-t'u-tzu.

3rd May.

No papers of interest.

4th May.

DECREES.

Yu-shu is retained at the capital for service, and Hung-tò is appointed Chief Superintendent of the Imperial Hunting Ground.

A man named Tai Yung-k'uei having knelt by the roadside and presented a petition to the Emperor, it is ordered that he be delivered to the Board of Justice, who will rigorously examine him.

APPEALS TO PEKING.

The Governor of Kueichow states that during the second half of last year there were no appeals remitted to him from Peking for rehearing.

5th May.

SUMMARY EXECUTIONS.

The Governor of Shantung reports that during the three winter months of last year 47 persons were summarily executed for robbery with violence in the province under his jurisdiction. The copies of all the depositions and confessions have been forwarded to the Board of Justice.

SHOPS PLUNDERED.

One night last December at a late hour two shops were broken into and robbed in the town of Lè-an in Kiangsi. One lost property worth Tls. 145, and the other Tls. 651. A neighbour who came to the rescue was wounded. The magistrate and the local military officer were soon on the spot; but their investigations proved fruitless, and up to the present none of the robbers have been arrested, nor any of the property recovered. The Governor therefore proposes in the first instance to deprive these two officials of their buttons, and, if they are still unsuccessful, to deal with them more severely afterwards.

—Approved.

REMITTANCE FROM KIANGSI.

In accordance with the proposals of the Board of Revenue the Emperor has directed that the Provincial Governments should furnish this year to the Peking exchequer a sum of Tls. 7,000,000 from their Land Tax, their Salt Revenue, and other sources. The share of this allotted to Kiangsi is Tls. 350,000 from the Land Tax and Tls. 100,000 from Litan. The Governor is now despatching a first instalment of Tls. 50,000 under the care of an officer who will convey it overland to Peking.

6th May.

CONTENTS OF KANSU TREASURY.

In obedience to standing orders, at the close of last year the Governor-General Yang Ch'ang-hsün inspected the contents of the Kansu Provincial Treasury, and found that the actual moneys forthcoming corresponded exactly with the balances shown in the accounts. On general account there were, silver, Tls. 1,916,193; copper cash, 5,257 strings; Tls. 248 of gold, and Tls. 5 of gold dust. There were further Tls. 11,324 collected for the Coast Defence Fund; and Tls. 1,642,439, belonging to various supplementary accounts, unexpended balances and so on.

RESUMPTION OF ORIGINAL NAME.

A representation has been made to the Governor of Kueichow, on behalf of the

Commander of the Right Battalion of the Governor's Brigade, Brevet-Colonel Tuan Ch'ang-lin. This officer states that he is a native of Hsiangt'anhsien in Huonan and the son of parents named Li. In the year 1854, when a child only four years old, he fled from his home with his father and mother and brothers in the hope of escaping from the Taiping rebels. All the rest of his family were killed, but he himself was saved by a Changsha man called Tuan Mao-té, who adopted him and brought him up. In 1866 he entered the army and was gradually promoted to his present rank. But while his preserver has been blessed with posterity, his own kin are but for himself entirely extinct. He therefore prays that he may be allowed to return to his original family and resume the surname of Li, still retaining his own personal name of Ch'ang-lin. As his service record is perfectly good, the change will not infringe the regulations as to such cases.—*Referred to the Board of War.*

DISTRIBUTION OF ACTING APPOINTMENTS.

Thirty years ago a law was passed, arranging the manner in which acting magistrates should be appointed. But of every three such appointments, the first was to be given to an officer on the regular list, that is to say, one who had won his place by his success in the public examinations; the second to an officer promoted for distinguished service; and the third to an officer on one of the miscellaneous lists, of those who have gained admission by purchase and so on. Moreover each Provincial Government is required once in every three months to send in a return of such appointments by it. The Viceroy at Canton furnishes a return for the whole of the past year, explaining that he has only now received the necessary details from the Provincial Treasurer.—*See.*

7th May.

DEATH OF P'AN CHÜN-WEN.

The Viceroy at Foochow informs the Emperor of the death of P'an Chün-wen, Provincial Treasurer of Fukien. The deceased was a scholar of Chiunghsien in Anhui and commenced his official career, as an employé in one of the Boards at Peking. Thence he was sent as a prefect to Shantung, where he distinguished himself by his successful defence of Ch'ingchowfu, which was attacked by the Nien-fei rebels. He was afterwards employed as Superintendent of River Works, and also as Famine Relief Commissioner, when he was instrumental in preserving

a very large number of lives. Six years ago, when the great breach occurred in the Yellow River embankment at Chengchow in Honan, he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of the repairs, and took charge of the two ends of the gap. After this he was promoted to be Chief Justice in Shansi, where he acted for a short time as Governor, and acquired universal popularity. Two years ago he became Provincial Treasurer of Fukien, in which post he displayed the greatest intelligence and carefulness. From the hardships and exposure which he underwent, while hurrying about on the river banks during a period of twenty years, his constitution was impaired, and he became subject to intermittent diarrhoea. The hot, moist climate of Fukien did not agree with him, and he suffered from swelling of the feet. Refusing to give way he continued energetically to perform the duties of his post. In the beginning of spring he was attacked by a violent access of his old malady, to which in his enfeebled condition he succumbed.

In conclusion the memorialist describes the temporary arrangements which he has made for the performance of the deceased's duties, and requests that a permanent successor may be appointed.—*Decree issued separately.*

RICE CARRIED BY GRAND CANAL.

A memorial from the Viceroy at Nanking deals with the subject of the tribute rice from Northern Kiangsu, which is again this year to be carried to Peking by the Grand Canal. The rice from Nanking, Hsuan, Yangchow and T'ungchow, together with that purchased with the proceeds of the millet tax in Hsüchow, amounts in all to 110,093 piculs (measure). Deducting from this the 50,000 piculs which have been retained by the Emperor's orders for the relief of distress near Chinkiang, there remain 60,093 piculs. Rice to this amount was accordingly purchased in north-ra Kiangsu and Anhui and delivered on to the boats at Fanshui and Paoying. The delivery commenced at the beginning of February and was finished by the middle of April. The shipment this year being small the boats have been despatched in five fleets with orders to proceed with all speed to Shantung and cross the Yellow River, as soon as the state of the water permits. The memorialist represents that the Canal is in a very bad state in Shantung. It was neglected for many years, and afterwards the practice was commenced of admitting water from the Yellow River.

Though there has been dredging at the worst spots, still this was only done as a temporary measure and has had no permanent results. Last year it was found to be extraordinarily silted up, and extreme efforts were required all the way to the entrance into the Wei River. It was only by frequent lightening, hauling or pushing over the mud, forming of artificial pools, and other devices, that the boats were got along at all. For the present year the memorialist has written to the Governor of Shantung to proceed as speedily as possible with the necessary dredging and filling up of gaps; and he has framed regulations for the conduct of the fleet, which he sends in a separate paper for the Emperor's inspection. If anything occurs which has not been provided for, it will be dealt with as seems expedient when the time comes — *Approved.*

MURDER OF FATHER AND SON.

A Kansu man named Chou Tè-li had been working away from home as a day labourer at a place called Tach'ingp'u. From here he went to Huachuangtze in the Mongol country where he was employed to herd camels. Returning afterwards to Tach'ingp'u, he met an old acquaintance named Wang Ch'ing-i who like himself had come to Tach'ingp'u to work there. As they talked together, Wang Ch'ing-i complained of the hard work that he had to do. Chou Tè-li therefore persuaded Wang to leave his place and come with him to Huachuangtze, where he said there was plenty of money and the pay was good. They went off together; but after arriving at their destination, and spending twenty days there, they failed to find employment. There was nothing to do but to return. One day on their journey as they sat by the roadside resting, Wang began to upbraid Chou for inducing him to give up his place and go on a wild-goose chase, which had been no good and had cost a great deal of money. Chou answered back sharply. Wang struck him with his 'wolf' staff. Chou wrested the weapon from Wang and dealt him such a blow that it killed him. To conceal the murder Chou pitched the corpse into a river hard by, which carried it away, and it was never seen again. After some time the dead man's father, Wang Chien-chung, not getting news of his son, came to Tach'ingp'u to look for him. Hearing how he had gone to the Mongol country, he asked Chou for information about him. The latter replied that he had left him there in a good place. The father then asked Chou

to go with him to look for his son. Chou could not refuse, and they started off. Chou foresaw that his crime would probably be discovered, and, to prevent this, determined to kill the old man in some lonely place. Having found his opportunity he committed this second murder and went off to another part of the country. After some time had elapsed the old man's second son came to Tach'ingp'u to enquire after him. He was told how his father had gone to Huachuangtze to look for his brother. With a companion he followed him there, but of course got no news of him. On his way back, when at the place of the murder, he discovered some of the old man's clothes and his pigtail, which he was able to identify, though the corpse had been devoured by wild animals. Chou was discovered and arrested, when he confessed the facts above narrated. He has been condemned to immediate decapitation. — *Referred to the Board of Justice for a report without delay.*

8th May.

RETURNS OF HORSES AT NANKING.

The Viceroy at Nanking forwards his annual return of the horses belonging to the Manchu garrison at Nanking. The return being for the fifteenth year of the reign appears to be three years in arrear. The fixed number of officers' horses is 495. Of these, only 260 were actually present; but the money value of the remaining 235 was in hand. Similarly for the 1,582 troopers of the garrison, these should be 4,746 horses. But there were really present 1,582 horses, and the money was forthcoming for 3,164 more.

USEFULNESS OF KIUKIANG GENERAL.

In the summer two years ago Colonel Ho Ming-liang was appointed Acting General at Kiukiang. As Colonel Ho has proved himself a most useful assistant to the Viceroy, it is requested that he may be retained for service in the provinces under the Viceroy's jurisdiction. — *Approved.*

FUNDS FROM CANTON.

The Province of Kuangtung is required this year to furnish the metropolitan government with Tls. 100,000 from its land tax receipts. The Viceroy reports that he is now remitting half the amount by means of mercantile bills. These will be conveyed to Peking by an officer, who will cash them and hand the proceeds to the Board.

INSPECTION OF HORSES AND CAMELS.

The Military Governor of Uliasutai reports that he is about to start on an official tour to inspect the studs of horses and

camels at the stations on the post roads under his jurisdiction. He should have gone last summer, but obtained permission to postpone the expedition, as, owing to the long drought and consequent want of grass, the animals of his escort were not fit to undertake a journey.

ILLNESS OF A MONGOL PRINCE.

The Captain-General of the Sain-nois Khalkhas, Prince Tekusawarni, has addressed a representation, through the Acting Captain-General, to the Military Governor of Uliasutai. Some time ago the Prince lost his mother; and, when he went into mourning on this account, two other Mongols of high rank were appointed to act instead of him, the one as Captain-General, and the other as Chieftain (Djasak) of his Banner. Just as the period of mourning was accomplished and he was about to resume his official position, the Prince found himself seriously ill. A chill which he caught had brought on pains in the loins and made him feel good for nothing. The medical treatment which he had tried had not been of any avail and he was not capable of performing the duties of his post. He suggested therefore that the two nobles who had been acting for him should be allowed to continue to do so. A secretary sent by the Governor has visited the Prince and finds that the illness complained of is real. It is therefore proposed that the two officers named should undertake the duties of the Prince till his health is restored.—*Approved.*

REMITTANCE FROM FOCHOW.

The province of Fukien is required this year to send to Peking Tls. 150,000 from its salt tax receipts. A first instalment of Tls. 50,000 is now being remitted by mercantile bills in charge of an officer from Fochow.

9th May.

INCREASE IN SALT REVENUE.

The Viceroy at Nanking observes that Huaian salt is supposed to find a large market in Hupeh, but its consumption has much decreased there, because part of the province is now supplied from Szechuan, and in the part which is reserved for Huaian a great deal is illegally introduced from other sources. There are guards on the frontier, but the adjacent officials across the border are not interested in Huaian salt, and therefore are dilatory in affording assistance; so that it is only by the most careful co-operation between the local authorities and the salt officers that affairs can get along at all. Mach'enghsien lies on

the frontier of Honan and so northern salt is often smuggled into it. The fixed annual consumption there of Huaian salt is only estimated at 3,420 measures, (probably of 400 cattles each) and in years with thirteen months at 3,700 measures. The present magistrate there has taken great pains to stop smuggling and facilitate the sale of the authorised salt. His efforts have been so great that, during the past year of thirteen months, the consumption has mounted to 7,104 measures. The memorialist thinks that the energy of the magistrate ought to be rewarded and proposes, with the concurrence of the Hupeh Government that he should receive promotion to a higher rank.—*Approved.*

GIFT TO A COLLEGE.

The public college at Anchow in Chihli not having enough funds for its support, a scholar of the place has given it seventy eight acres of water-land worth Tls. 598, and Tls. 410 in ready money. He does this, he declares, in accordance with the last wishes of his mother and his step-mother. The above facts having been reported by the local authorities, the Viceroy Li suggests to the Emperor that the said scholar should be allowed to erect a memorial arch in honour of the two deceased ladies.—*Request granted.*

10th May.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN SHANSI.

An Imperial Decree recently ordered that the 65,000 piculs of tribute rice, due this year from Hunan and Hupeh, should be turned into money and with the sum that would have been expended on its freight, be sent as soon as possible to the Viceroy Li Hung-chang at Tientsin, who would employ it for the relief of the starving population in Shansi. The Viceroy states the rice this year from Hupeh is 32,917 piculs, worth Tls. 55,032, and the sum allowed for freight and other charges Tls. 16,742, total Tls. 71,774. The China Merchants' Company are the agents of the Hupeh Government for the transport of this rice, and the memorialist has desired them to advance the money without delay. He has telegraphed also to the Governor of Hunan to forward to him as soon as possible the sum due from that province, which is about the same as that from Hupeh. The funds being wanted for Shansi at once, the Relief Board at Tientsin will find means to supply the money and repay itself when the remittance from Hunan arrives. As the tribute rice had already been bought, it will now have to be sold again, and it is to

be feared that there will be some loss on the transaction. Whatever this may be it will be reported to the Emperor, as soon as the accounts come to hand.

The part of Shansi where the distress is severest is the region outside the great wall. It covers an area two or three thousand li in circumference, and there are as many as a million people waiting for assistance. In order to supervise such extensive proceedings it is necessary that there should be an officer of intelligence and experience. The memorialist has selected a Taotai named Liu Ch'i-t'ung who has had practice in such matters. He has been told to take the money at once to northern Shansi and to cooperate with the local authorities and the charity commissioners who are there already.—*Noted.*

REMITTANCE FROM HUPEH.

The Province of Hupeh has been required to furnish the metropolitan government with a sum of Tls. 450,000 from its Land Tax Receipts this year. The Governor reports that he is sending overland a first instalment of Tls. 50,000.

11th May.

No papers of interest.

12th May.

PUNISHMENT OF ESCAPED PRISONER.

Li Hung-chang points out that his attention has been called to the frequency with which prisoners who are sentenced to banishment or transportation manage to effect their escape whilst on the way to the places at which they must serve their time. The law does not however provide for any augmentation of the penalty to which they are originally sentenced and memorialist considers that something ought to be done to remedy this state of things. He would therefore refer to the regulations at present in force for the punishment of such criminals in and about Peking and suggest that in future should any cases of a similar kind occur, the offenders be kept in as prisoner for a few years prior to being again sent to the place of banishment.—*Let the Board of Punishments at once report.*

13th May.

No papers of interest.

14th May.

FUNERAL EXPENSES OF IMPERIAL CONCUBINES.

On the 28th of May the coffins of Chuang-ching, secondary consort of H.I.M. Tzu-kuang, and Mei, a concubine of the second rank of H.I.M. Hsien Feng are to be transported from T'ient'sun where they have

been temporarily deposited to the Shun Yung-yü gardens at the Eastern tombs and there committed to earth.

The officers of the Imperial Household report that they have no money wherewith to make the necessary arrangements for putting in order the roads and bridges along which the funeral cortege must pass and request that in accordance with former precedents the Governor General of Chihli be instructed to furnish Tls. 3,000 for this purpose with as little delay as possible.—*Request granted.*

15th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Ch'en Ming-yü Intendant of the Aksu Circuit, Kansu, To K'o-chi-na, Prefect of Wentchow, Chih-hsing, Prefect of Leichou, Kuan-tung, are hereby directed to leave their posts and come to Peking for audience.

Chang Ch'i-kuang is hereby appointed General of the Ping-hu Brigade, Fukien.

16th May.

DECREE.

Let Chang Yung-t'ing be appointed to the Brigadier-Generalship of the Liangchow Military Circuit of Kansu. Respect this!

CHIHLI DIVISION OF THE GRAND CANAL.

Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of Chihli, forwards his annual report on the river works of the Grand Canal, and states that the Intendant of the Yungting river conservancy, Wan Pei-ying, reported that in anticipation of the breaking up of the ice in the Yungting river, which commenced on the 9th of March last, raising the mean depth from seven to eight feet to twelve and thirteen feet, he made every preparation for the consequent rush of the waters of that river into the junction of the Grand Canal. He used in some cases bags of sand and earth to stop the gaps, and thus by prompt forethought changed what would have been a source of danger into one of safety, completing all the works by the 9th of April, when the ice having all melted, the average mean depth of eight feet five inches was regained.—*Noted.*

SHANTUNG DIVISION OF THE YELLOW RIVER.

Fu Jun, Governor of Shantung, sends his usual annual report on the Yellow River embankments under his jurisdiction, since the commencement of the warm weather, after the breaking up of the ice in the river. Every preparation against possible bursting of the banks by the downward rush of the freshets was made under the

personal superintendence of the memorialist himself, and thanks to the energy and prompt obedience of his subordinates on the river works, no damages are reported.—*Noted.*

17th May.

THE COURT.

To-morrow morning after His Imperial Majesty shall have performed sacrificial worship at the temples, he will return to the Palace to grant audience to the Ministers of the Court, after which His Majesty intends to go to I-ho Park to pay his respects to H.L.M. the Empress Dowager, and then return back to the Palace.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

1.—Let the three Chehsien mentioned in Wu Ta-chêng, the Governor of Hunan's, memorial as being very capable and energetic, as well as honest in their duties as district magistrates, be informed of the Imperial approval, and let them also be exhorted to keep on as they have done and not to commence well and end badly. And let also the four district magistrates and assistant magistrates mentioned in the same memorial be forthwith disgraced and stripped of their rank for their bad government of the people under them, as a mark of Imperial displeasure and as a warning to others. Respect this!

2.—Let Ju-Lin be appointed Taotai of the Taochiang Intendancy in Kuangsi. Respect this!

A DISHONEST OFFICIAL.

Chang Hsü, Governor of Shansi, reports a dishonest Superintendent of Likin, an expectant Prefect of the name of Wang Chao-huai, for appropriating certain funds for his own private ends to the detriment of the revenue, and asks that the Imperial mandate may be issued for his immediate degradation and that he may be stripped of his rank as a warning to other officials. Rescript—*Allowed.*

CHANGES AMONG THE KIANGSI HIGH AUTHORITIES.

Tê Hsing, Governor of Kiangsi, reports that he has turned over, in obedience to the Imperial commands, the seals of his office to the acting Governor Fang Ju-i, in order to enable the memorialist to go up to Peking for his audience, and that the post of the Provincial Treasurership vacated by Fang Ju-i had been given to the Provincial Judge Fu Yü, whose place again has been taken by the Salt Intendant.

18th May.

THE PESCADORES.

The Governor-General of the Min-Chêh provinces, T'an Chung-lin, reports the death of the mother of Wu Hung-lu, Brigadier-General of the Pescadore Islands, on the 4th of April last at her home in Hôfei, Anhui, and the consequent retirement into mourning of Major General Wu Hung-lu, and requests that his successor may be appointed to what is considered to be one of the most important commands in Fukien province. In the meanwhile memorialist in conjunction with Shao Yü-lien, Governor of Formosa, has appointed General Wang Chih-sêng to be acting Brigadier-General of the Pescadores awaiting His Majesty's appointment.

CONGEE OF A NEWLY APPOINTED TAOTAI.

Jui Lin, the newly appointed Taotai of the Tao Chiang Intendancy in Kuangsi gives thanks for the Imperial Grace and in making his *congee* asks for instructions.

19th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

1.—Let Kuei-hêng who is on sick leave be allowed one month's extra leave of absence, and let Hwai Ta-pu act for him in his duties of President of the Board of Punishments. Respect this!

2.—Let Kuei-hêng's post of Lieutenant-General of the Mongolian Bordered White Banner be filled *pro tem.* by Lin Shu whose own post of Lieutenant-General of the Mongolian Blue Banner will be filled during the interim by Chai Ying. Respect this!

TREASURE FROM FUKIEN.

T'an Chung-lin, Governor-General of Min-Chêh, reports that he sent up on the 2nd of April last four deputies with the first instalment of Tls. 200,000 for the payment of salaries of Peking officials, troops, bannermen, and pay of troops in the North-eastern provinces, out of the Tls. 440,000 extra funds he was ordered to send up to Peking by the Board of Revenue last year. As soon as this amount has been received by the Board, the memorialist will send up the next instalment. Rescript.—*Let the Board concerned take note.*

20th May.

ILLNESS OF A MONGOL PRINCE.

Jung Tê, Military Governor, and the Gioro Ch'ung Huan, Assistant Military Governor, of Uliassutai report the serious illness of the Mongolian Prince of the First Order Tukusewarh', Captain-General of the Sannoin tribe of Khalkhas. Some time ago

Prince Tukusewarh was compelled to retire owing to the death of the Princess-Dowager his mother, and obtained the Imperial consent to allow his place to be taken, during the interval of mourning, by the Deputy Captain-General of the tribe, the Mongol Prince of the Second Order Ts'uisuluntsapu, while again this Prince's place was to be taken *pro tem.* by a noble of the 4th grade, Lupushuang-pupala, Adjutant of the tribe, and chief of one of the military colonies on the Russian frontier. But now, just as Prince Tukusewarh's period of mourning has expired, he has been suddenly attacked by rheumatic fever, with accompanying pains in the sides and a general state of nervous debility, so that he is unable to resume the duties of his post, and requests the memorialists to pray for the Imperial Grace and allow him the usual two months' leave of absence to attend to his illness. The memorialists at once sent one of their *bilkeshis* (clerks) Akotan, to ascertain privately the genuineness of the illness, and finding that Prince Tukusewarh is really suffering from a serious complaint, they now pray that the Prince's prayer may be granted and the same order of things be continued since the time he retired into mourning.—*Rescript: Let the proper yamen* (Mongolian Superintendency) *take note.*

A MILITARY TOUR OF INSPECTION.

Jung Tè, Military Governor of Uliasutai, informs the Throne that according to precedent he is going to make the usual triennial tour of inspection over the military colonies, posts, post-road stations, camel and horse pastures within his jurisdiction. This is the first time since his arrival at his post that he has made such an inspection, which he should have done immediately he had taken over the seals of office from his predecessor. He, however, had been excused from doing so by Imperial grace, first, because it was during the depths of winter in 1891 when he came to Uliasutai, and secondly in 1892 because there was a drought and famine, and the camels, cattle, and horses were not fit to be inspected. Nothing intervening this year, the memorialist has made arrangements to start at an early date and will report the results of his tour when he returns to Uliasutai.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War take note.*

21st May.

THE COURT.

H.I.M. will, after having transacted the affairs of State for the day, go to the I-ho Park to-morrow noon to pay his respects to H.I.M. the Dowager Empress.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

1.—Let T'ang Chin-ch'ung and Hsu Chih-ch'ing be appointed Senior and Junior Deputy Supervisors of Instruction (of the heir apparent) respectively. Respect this!

2.—Let T'ang Ts'uen-shêng be appointed Supervising Censor and Keeper of the Seals of the Board of War. Respect this!

3.—Let Fêng Chin-ch'ien be appointed Assistant Censor of the Metropolitan Circuit. Respect this!

Yü Lu, Military Governor of Shingking, reports that the Imperial Ancestral Mausolea at Moukden require to be thoroughly repaired, and prays that We should appoint an auspicious day to commence the work on them. Let the Board of Astronomy select some auspicious day during the fifth moon of this year for the purpose, and We command that the Military Governor of Shingking and the Board of Works do reverently and carefully carry out the necessary repairs, and, furthermore, let the other matters prayed for in Yü Lu's memorial be done as he wishes.—Respect this!

ARMY APPROPRIATION FROM THE KUANGSI LOCAL REVENUES.

Huang Kuei-shêng, Acting-Governor of Kuangsi, reports that the sum of Tls. 40,250, odd, has been taken out at various times during the past year (1892) for urgent expenses connected with the military chest of the Kuangsi troops who have to keep a good watch on the borders, as well as to suppress any risings amongst the wild aboriginal tribes and desperate characters in the interior. These sums were paid out at different times from the provincial exchequer during memorialist's incumbency of the Treasurership; but owing to various reasons he was unable to make out a list of them at the time; this has now been done by the acting Provincial Treasurer Hu Yü-fên, and it is now forwarded for the Sacred Glance.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

22nd May.

REWARDS ASKED FOR TRIBUTE RICE OFFICERS.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chèkiang, asks for rewards on behalf of a number of officials commencing from a Taotai in rank down to petty officials of the 9th grade connected with collecting, carrying and delivering the Chèkiang quota of tribute rice for Peking during the year 1892. Every one connected showed commendable energy and promptness in this work and

by former precedents should be rewarded by promotion in rank according to their several degrees.—*Rescript: Noted.*

ADDITIONAL WAR JUNKS TO PROTECT THE SEA ROUTE BETWEEN NINGPO AND FOCHOW.

T'an Chung-lin, Viceroy of Min-Chéh, and Sung Chün, Governor of Chékiang, jointly request the Imperial sanction for the addition of eight seagoing war junks to reinforce the present strength of the navy detailed to protect the sea route between the two commercial emporiums of the provinces of Chékiang and Fukien—Ningpo and Fochow. The sea coast line of the Min-Chéh provinces stretches for the length of one thousand several hundred li, and the trading junks continually visit the ports of either province laden principally with rice and poles. Owing to the recent innumerable piracies committed by pseudo-fishermen, whose boats number several tens of thousands, upon the trading junks running between Ningpo and Fochow who cannot make any speed in sailing, laden as they are with such clumsy and bulky things as poles, the memorialists arranged to send the steam cruisers *Fipo*, *Chenhang*, and *Chingyuan* of the Fochow navy and the *Yunkai* and *Chaowen* of the Chékiang fleet to assist the regular seagoing war junks in protecting the sea-route. But notwithstanding stringent orders and the energy of the navy concerned it was impossible to give, with the small force on hand, adequate protection to all the trading junks: hence piracies still continued although in smaller proportion than hitherto. Now along the coast of both provinces there are no less than several tens of ports and havens with islands innumerable, which afford excellent retreats for pirates and their craft. Of the war junks of Fukien since the battle of the Min, at Pagoda Anchorage, only twenty-nine seagoing junks have been left, which with those of Chékiang bring up the total number to only eighty junks of various sizes. What could these do in policing a thousand and several hundred li of coast, amidst the hundreds of outlets, coves, and ports from whence the several tens of thousands of pirate boats issue upon their prey as they come up and down in a never ceasing line? Hence although the war junks and cruisers patrol the coast day and night they still cannot give entire protection to the traders whose proverbial slowness renders it impossible also for the swift war junks to stay by them. The memorialists then wrote to the Commander-in-chief of Chékiang, General Fêng Nan-ping, to raise more war junks at

Ningpo to reinforce the existing fleet and asked him to make an estimate as to what a squadron of eight large seagoing junks would cost yearly. He chartered a few junks for the purpose, and replied that it would cost at least Tls. 23,000 to pay the sailors and officers of the eight junks proposed by the memorialists. In view therefore, of the existing urgency of affairs memorialists ask the Imperial sanction for the additional junks, the money required yearly to be paid by the likin services of both provinces. General Fêng Nan-ping has already bought and equipped two junks which are urgently required, in anticipation of the Imperial approval.—*Rescript: Approved. Let the proper Board take note.*

OPPORTUNE RAIN AT PEKING.

The Governor of Shuntienfu reports that the recent rainfalls in the Metropolitan Prefecture gave a mean depth of over four inches of rain.

MILITARY TOUR OF INSPECTION BY THE GOVERNOR OF HUNAN.

Wu Ta-ch'eng, Governor of Hunan, reports that having made the tour of inspection of the military garrisons and posts in the western portion of Hunan province, he had to return in order to attend to the literary examinations of scholars in the capital of the province, which having done he intends on the 3rd of May to complete his tour of the southern portion of the province.—*Rescript: Noted.*

THE CHIHLI FAMINE FUND.

The Governor-General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, reports that in addition to the subscriptions received from all sides in aid of the famine sufferers of Chihli last year, the sum of Tls. 100,000 was taken from the Provincial exchequer, and requests that this amount should be debited against the province for that year.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

23rd May.

No news of interest to-day.

24th May.

CHARGES AGAINST A PETTY OFFICIAL UNPROVED.

Yü Lu, Governor-General of Fêngtien, reports that the Department Police-master and Gaol-warden of Liaoyangchow, Li Yën, who in the month of January, 1891, was sued by the widow of a man named

Wang Yü-chow who was alleged to have died within five days of his punishment through its being too severe, through the instrumentality of the said Police-master, has at last been proved to have been falsely charged, owing to some misconstruction by the widow and her mother of the conduct of the said Li Yën at the time of the death of Wang Yü-chow. The widow in her petition stated that her husband owed some money to a certain man Chu Te-shêng, the proprietor of a jade-stone shop, who in the month of December, 1890, went to collect his money from her husband. Being unsuccessful, the creditor applied to the Department Police-master and Gaol-warden of Liaoyangchow, Li Yën, who arrested her husband and used torture to force the payment of the debt, and her husband also suffered severely from the application upon the thighs of a strong leather-thonged horse-whip, thereby causing his death five days afterwards in his own house. Upon receipt of the petition, memorialist ordered the sub-prefect of Liaoyangchow to conduct a *post-mortem* examination, with the result that a verdict of death through excessive punishment was given, and Li Yën the Police-master was immediately deprived of his rank and office, and incarcerated in prison awaiting His Majesty's pleasure. A Decree, however, ordered another inquest, as there were grounds for believing that there were extenuating circumstances in the case. The memorialist then ordered the Taotai of the Postal and Courier Services to re-examine the corpse of Wang Yü-chow, and all the witnesses connected with the case. It was then found out, firstly, that when the man died the Police-master's runner, a man named Hu Fu, had brought the sum of 100 *tiaos* (\$16.00 Manchurian money) to the widow, which the creditor had asked him to give for paying the expenses of a coffin and funeral on account of the pity he felt for the family who had lost their head through his indirect instrumentality, but which the widow had misconstrued, as coming through a runner, to have been given to her as "hush money" by the Police-master. Hence her accusation. Secondly the second *post-mortem* proved conclusively that the deceased had met his death through suicide by taking a quantity of raw opium. The reason for such a step it afterwards appeared was owing to the many debts the deceased owed all over Liaoyang and so sought self-destruction to escape the importunities of his creditors. His widow, however, knew nothing of her husband's act and really thought that he

had met his death through excessive tortures at the hands of the Police-master. Memorialist therefore suggested first that the sub-prefect of Liaoyangchow, Kao Nai-t'ing, for his imperfect examination at the inquest, and for depending too much upon the statements of the corpse-examiners, should be handed over to the Board of Punishments for the determination of a penalty; second, that as Li Yën had exceeded his powers as Police-master of trying such civil cases as debt, he should be degraded, which has already been done and hence need not be repeated; thirdly that the corpse-examiners, three in number, for their carelessness should be beaten eighty blows, according to the law laid down in such cases; and lastly, the creditor Chu Té-shêng, the widow of the deceased and her mother should be pardoned as the first had not given the 100 *tiaos* to stop the widow's asking for an inquest, but, on the contrary, had listened to the dictates of charity and helped the widow with money, and because the two females were women after all and were all along labouring under a mistake, as already explained. —*Rescript: Let the proper Board report thereon.*

OFFICERS OF THE PEIYANG FLEET TRANSFERRED TO THE KUANGTUNG SQUADRON.

Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of Chihli, Earl of Shuh-yi, Grand Secretary and Co-President of the Admiralty Board, reports the detaching of eight officers of the Peiyang Fleet to the Kuangtung Squadron at the request of the Viceroy of Liangkuang, and the appointment of other officers to the places left vacant by the former. A list of the names is also given of the sixteen officers concerned. —*Rescript: Let the proper yamen take note.*

CAPTURE OF TWO BODY-SNATCHERS AND OF A MAN ACCUSED OF WIFE MURDER.

The General in command of the Peking gendarmerie reports the capture of two ruffians guilty of digging into graves and rifling the bodies of the dead, and also the arrest of a Manchu official named Ch'uan Tê, who had killed his wife by beating her to death, and requests the Imperial sanction to send the three criminals for trial to the Board of Punishments. —*Rescript: Let it be so.*

THE GOVERNOR OF KIANGSI.

Tê Hsing, Governor of Kiangsi, had his first interview with the Grand Council to-day preparatory to an Imperial audience.

25th May.

EXPENSES OF THE MOUNTED PATROL OF THE WESTERN SHINGKING HIGHROAD.

Yü Li, Governor-General of Fêngt'ien, reports that the money expended on the one hundred and twenty mounted patrolmen who police the high road between the city of Moukden and Shanhaikuan for the protection of traders and merchants traveling between Chihli and the capital of Fêngt'ien, amounted last year to Tls. 8,295.23, which was drawn from the tonnage dues collected in the cities of Chinchou and Kuangning.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.*

AN ADVANCE ASKED FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE COURIER SERVICES.

The same memorialist states that he has received a petition from the Chief Superintendent of the Fêngt'ien courier service, Ch'í Wên, who gives a list of a large number of post-masters in the province, complaining of the high prices of corn and fodder for the last two years for the ponies in the post-stations, who total 989 in all, and the yearly expenses of which are set down at Tls. 16,281. Being unable to keep these ponies strong and well under the circumstances on the small amount allowed daily for each pony, the post-masters are compelled to ask for an advance on their regular allowances in order to buy the proper amount of corn and fodder requisite for the keeping of them in a state of efficiency. This is all the more urgent inasmuch as by the recent establishment of so many extra disciplined regiments in the province, the relays of courier ponies are used twice as often as in former days, carrying important despatches to and fro.—*Rescript: Granted. Let the proper Board take note.*

ALL QUIET ALONG THE BORDERS.

Liu Ping-chang, Viceroy of Szechuan, states that during the month of November of each year, the Brigadier-Generals whose districts touch each other along the borders of the provinces of Szechuan, Shensi, and Hupeh are required by law to make a tour along the borders of their respective provinces and to confer with each other if there should happen to be any cause of disturbance effecting the tranquillity of the borders. He now reports that in accordance with the law above stated the Brigadier-General of Sungfan in North Szechuan met the military officers of Southern Shensi and Western Hupeh and all being quiet along the borders of these three provinces where they touch, he asks for the Imperial approval.—*Rescript: Noted.*

26th May.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Li Wei-shéh is appointed Brigadier-General of the Holi Military District in Yunnan.

THE NEW ACTING TREASURER OF KUEICHOU.

T'ang Shu-shêng, Provincial Judge of Kueichou, reports his taking over the seals as acting Treasurer of the province vice Wang Tê-pang deceased. Memorialist took over the seals on the 31st of March last at the instance of Sung Fan, Governor of the province, and doubts his ability to fulfil adequately the duties of his new post but he will venture to do nothing before consulting the Governor and humbly begs that His Majesty will accept his thanks for this mark of Imperial Grace.—*Rescript: Noted.*

OFFICIALS DEGRADED.

Yü K'uan, Governor of Honan, reports that he has degraded and given a limit of time to the civil and military officers of the district of T'ungshühsien, for, in the first place, failing to give proper protection to travellers and merchants passing through that town, and, secondly, after a robbery in the first part of last April, for failing to bring the miscreants to justice. In the month of April last a merchant named Hsia Chiu-ch'ang while staying for the night at the southern suburbs of T'ungshühsien was attacked by a band of robbers who mounted the walls of the inn he was staying in and breaking down the gates took away Tls. 7,000 in cash, severely wounding a servant during the struggle that ensued. Memorialist asks for the Imperial approval of the steps he has taken.—*Rescript: Noted: Let the proper Board also take note.*

RESCUE OF SHIPWRECKED COREANS.

Sung Tsün, Governor of Chékiang, reports the saving near Chinhaï, Ningpo, by a fisherman named Liu Ah-tsau of that city, of fifteen Coreans whom he found floating on a wrecked junk on the 21st of March last. The Coreans were fishermen also but had been blown out of their course by a gale of wind and when rescued were on the brink of starvation. The memorialist has provided every comfort for the unfortunate fellows since their touching Chinese soil and since their arrival at Hangchow to which they were despatched by the Ningpo Taotai. The men will be sent in due course of time up to Peking in order that the Corean envoy there may take them back to their own country.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies take note.*

27th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

1.—T'ao Ngo, Under-Secretary in the Board of Revenue, recommended by the Board for a prefectship in the provinces, was unable to answer clearly and to the point the questions We asked this morning. His appointment is therefore cancelled and he is ordered to return to his former Under-Secretaryship.

2.—The Governor of Shansi has asked Us to appoint some one to the vacant post of prefect of T'aiyuenfu. As the said post is one of great importance and requires an officer who is well acquainted with the disposition of the people and routine business, We order Chang Hsü to appoint a fitting man amongst those of prefect rank in his province, and let the post vacated by his appointment be filled by Chu Pêh-sui.

TRIBUTE RICE PASSING THROUGH THE GRAND CANAL.

Sung Ts'ün, Director-General of Grain Transport, reports the successive arrivals at the Ts'ingchiang, Fuhsing and T'ungtsi and Hueitsi locks of the Canal, in April, of five squadrons of Chêkiang grain boats numbering 250 boats in all and carrying 67,799 piculs, odd, of tribute rice, and eight squadrons of Kiangsu grainboats, numbering 376 boats and carrying 155,769 piculs odds, bound for Peking. Memorialist inspected the various cargoes and found that the rice was comparatively clean and free from foreign substances, and having done so he ordered them to pass on to the north. He also desires to report the efficiency of the officials under his charge in keeping the route clear and full of water for the boats passing up to the north.—*Rescript: Noted.*

THE HANGCHOW DYKES.

The Governor of Chêkiang at Hangchow, Sung Chün, reports the expenditure of Tls. 75,000 from the exchequer of the salt revenue, on the Hangchow dykes and sea embankments, and that this is a saving of Tls. 5,000 on the regular annual grant of Tls. 80,000 set apart for this kind of work from the revenues of the province.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take Note.*

MONEY FOR THE ADMIRALTY TREASURY.

The same high official in a postscript memorial reports that he is sending the first instalment of 1893 of Tls. 40,000 for the Treasury of the Board of Admiralty, which is one-tenth of the sum ordered by Imperial Decree to be paid out of the

likin revenue of Chêkiang province, yearly, for the expenses of the Imperial ocean-going fleet, and that he has bought a draft on Tientsin through a Chinese bank, the same to be paid to the order of Li Hung-chang, co-President of the said Admiralty Board.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Admiralty take note.*

THE SHANSI FAMINE FUND.

Chang Hsü, Governor of Shansi, reports the receipt of Tls. 100,000 sent by the Board of Revenue, by Imperial Grace, on behalf of the famine sufferers in his province. He also states that he has been very careful about the expenditure of such funds which he paid only to bona fide sufferers, and that after portioning out the money in various amounts according to the wants of the several districts to the amount of Tls. 90,000, the balance of Tls. 10,000 has been given to the various officials to buy seed with to distribute to the rustics for the next year's crops. Tls. 390,000 also have been received at various times from rich families of the province in aid of the famine districts, all of which have been distributed according to the wants of the people. Local charity funds although not officially reported amount to a considerable sum. In addition to the above are Tls. 250,000 odd, sent by Li Hung-chang on behalf of charity institutions and private individuals in Chihli and the southern provinces. Kiangsu sent Tls. 10,000, while some rich men in Kiangning have sent Tls. 20,000. The Director-General of Grain Transport sent Tls. 1,000; the Salt Commissioner of Shantung Tls. 500, while the Grand Secretary Wêng T'ung-ho and others sent from Peking 20,000 piculs of rice, all of which have been received and distributed.—*Rescript: Noted.*

28th May.

An Imperial Decree appointing a number of officials to posts in the various provincial administrations.

CONVOYING THE TRIBUTE RICE.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, reports that according to precedent he sent orders to the Brigadier-General of Têngchow, Chang Kao-yuan, in March last, to convoy the Chêkiang grain junks passing the Shantung coast with tribute rice for Peking, and that they were passed on without any mishap to the Chihli Viceroyalty by the end of April.—*Rescript: Noted.*

LIST OF BRIGANDS DECAPITATED IN KUEICHOW.

Sung Fan, Governor of Kueichow, reports that during the past year no

less than fifty-nine cases of robbery and rapine happened in his province and 133 robbers were captured and summarily decapitated on the spot without being first sent to the capital of the province to be tried by the Provincial Judge. This was owing to the distance to be traversed between the scenes of the crimes and the capital city, and the fear of any mishap occurring during the journey between the various cities.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.*

29th May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

1.—Let Shên En-chia be appointed Director of Court Banquets.

2.—On the 8th day of the 5th moon (June 21) which is the Summer Equinox, We will Ourselves attend the sacrifices in the Temples of Earth and Rain; but in the minor four temples let the nobles Chung Hsiu, Ying Chün, Li Jui, and Wên Hai take Our place.

2.—At the annual sacrifices to Kuanti, (God of War,) that fall on the 13th day of the 5th moon (June 26th) let the nobles Po Ching and Po Shan be present in Our stead.

30th May.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let those Vice-Presidents of Boards, Sub-Chancellors of the Grand Secretariat and those bearing the 3rd, 4th and 5th metropolitan grades, who are metropolitan graduates (*chin shi*) and who did not present themselves at the Palace examinations for Literary Chancellorships, present themselves on the 12th of June, next, at the Imperial Library for an examination. Those who do not desire to try at these examinations let them first report to the Board of Rites and give their reasons therefor.

REWARDS ASKED FOR ENERGETIC OFFICERS.

Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Liangkiang provinces, asks for rewards for one hundred and ten officials connected with the collection of the famine funds in the provinces of Kiangsu and Chêkiang in aid of the sufferers in Shantung and Chihli. Sixteen provinces were exploited by these officials through whose instrumentality over two million seven hundred thousand taels were collected.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board report thereon.*

DEGRADATION ASKED FOR AN A COLONEL AND A CAPTAIN IN YUNNAN.

Wang Wên-shao, Governor-General of the Yün-Kwei provinces, reports that the prefect of Kuangnanfu, Yunnan, has asked that a

Colonel by the name of Li Chao-siang, who is accused of murdering a father and his son on the Kuangai borders, be first degraded of his rank and peacock's feather so that the proper warrants may be sent out for the man's arrest. Also that the sub-prefect of Yaochow has asked for the degradation from his rank of a Captain Hsü Tê-shêng, accused of collecting the rice taxes from the country people, in order that the same steps may be taken against him. Memorialist, before asking that these steps should be granted, first got the Provincial Treasurer and Judge of Yunnan to investigate into the charges, and now finding that there are good grounds for the men's degradation, prays that the petitions be acceded to and Li Chao siang and Hsü Tê-shêng be degraded from their several ranks and turned over to be authorities to be tried and if found guilty to be punished.—*Rescript: Granted; let the proper Board take note.*

31st May.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1.)—Some time ago, Hsü Chih-siang, President of the Court of Revision, memorialised Us against Chang Chih-tung, Governor-General of the Hukuang provinces, to the effect that he was not only guilty of ingratitude to the Imperial Grace but also had shown a lack of attention to his duties. Liu K'un-yi and Li Hanchang were therefore deputed by Us to investigate into the charges, and the following is the result of these investigations as reported by the said officials. Memorialists failed to find any proofs in favour of the charges laid against Chang Chih-tung while Governor-General of the Liangkuang provinces of laziness in granting audiences to his subordinates; or employment of persons to the detriment of others; or unmethod in inaugurating and stopping his schemes; or making unjust and unbearable fines; or yet of extravagance. Nor has he been guilty of reckless expenditure in his present schemes in Hupeh such as his Iron Works and mining undertakings. As to the rest of the charges against Chang Chih-tung, the memorialists are of the opinion that they also are the result of hearsay and false rumours. With reference to the charges against the Provincial Treasurer of Hupeh, Wang Chih-ts'ün, there is no proof of his miserly disposition or grasping after money. In view of the above memorials, therefore, We command that no further steps shall be taken against Chang Chih-tung and Wang Chih-ts'ün. As for the

expectant sub-prefect Tsao Fêng-ch'ang, let him be stripped of his rank and forced to return to his native town, since he has ignored the criticisms of others against him and thus failed in respect for himself, in order that he may be made an example of the dignity of official life. Furthermore although Chang Chih-tung has hitherto always maintained a reputation for energy and earnestness in his duties, We would advise him hereafter to take his subordinates more into his confidence in order to ensure the best methods of economy in his schemes and use the best men fitted for them. Respect this!

(2.)—Let Hsü Shou-ch'ang be appointed First Lieutenant of the Left Battalion at Ichang, Hupeh. Respect this!

THE COURT.

H. I. M. the Emperor intends after going through State business and granting Audience to the high Ministers of Court to-morrow morning, to return to the Summer Lakes.

YUNNAN COPPER FOR PEKING.

T'ang Chüing, with the brevet rank of Governor, Imperial Commissioner of Yünnan mines, reports that he sent on the 28th inst. the thirteenth instalment of copper from the Yünnan mines for Peking and that a proper official of *hsien* rank has been sent in charge of it.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

DEGRADATION OF A MILITARY OFFICER ASKED FOR ON THE GROUND OF HIS BEING A "KOLAO HUI" MEMBER.

Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Liangkiang provinces, reports that certain chiefs of the *Kolao Hui* Society, Kao Tê-hua and Ch'ên Chin-lung have confessed that Captain Wan Sung-t'ing, alias Wan Ts'ing-hsüan, an officer decorated with the plain blue feather, is a member of their society, and is implicated in several of the schemes of the society. It is therefore important that Wan Sung-t'ing be arrested and degraded from his rank in order that the usual course of the law may be proceeded with in his case.—*Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of War take note.*

ROAD MAKING WORTHY OF MARKS OF IMPERIAL APPROVAL.

Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Liangkuang provinces, asks for the Imperial approval in the shape of a tablet written in autograph characters in favor of a man named Hsiê Tê-chung of Canton, who expended Tls. 3,000 in

obedience to his deceased mother's commands on making and repairing some country roads in the suburbs of Canton to the length of over 1,300 *chang*, i. e. about three miles.—*Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of Rites take note.*

SENTENCE ON A WOULD-BE PARRICIDE.

The same official in conjunction with the Governor of Kuangtung, Kang Yi, reports that a man Chêng Ah-sing by name, of the city of Hsiangsan (Macao), had attempted in the month of October last year to murder his parent Chêng Tsai-sü, by beating the latter with a long stool. Fortunately the culprit did not succeed in beating out his father's brains, having been stopped by the neighbours, although with much difficulty. The law in such cases where a son has been caught *flagrante delicto* beating his parents without killing them provides that the son be forthwith executed after his crime has been proved. Memorialists asks for permission to execute the above sentence on Chêng Ah-sing.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments speedily report thereon.*

1st June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

T'an Chung-lin reports as to the absconding of a degraded official who had made away with government funds, leaving no traces of himself, and requests that an order should be made for the man's arrest and punishment. Let Li Lien-k'un, the degraded ex-district magistrate of Chien-yanghsien, Fukien, who misappropriated such a large sum of government money which he failed to pay over to his successor on delivering the seals of his acting post, be arrested immediately and imprisoned, and the missing money be recovered from him. As he has absconded and apparently left no traces of his whereabouts this contempt for justice and the laws of the country is to be severely punished. Let, therefore, the Governor of Kiangsi, the native province of the delinquent, as well as the Governors and Viceroy of the other provinces, aid in making universal search for the delinquent, and when they shall have succeeded in arresting him, send him forthwith to Fukien to be severely dealt with and measures taken to enforce restitution of the misappropriated funds. In this manner the revenues of the country will be protected. As for the other matters prayed for in T'an Chung-lin's memorial let it be as he has asked and let also the proper Board take note. Respect this!

REWARDS FOR SZECHUAN PROVINCE IN
RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

Liu Ping-chang, Viceroy of Szechuan, asks that ten more candidates should be each added to the regular list of successful candidates in the Civil and Military Provincial examinations for the degree of *Chujéa* of the Province in consideration of the Imperial Assent formerly given that for every Tls. 300,000 voluntary contributions by the gentry and merchants of Szechuan, an extra man each might be added to the regular number of successful candidates in the *Chujéa* Military and Civil examinations held at the capital, Chengtu, biennially. Since 1891 no less than Tls. 3,183,607 odd had been collected in voluntary contributions in Szechuan, hence according to the Imperial Commands, above noted, the said province had a right to ten extra men each for the Civil and Military Provincial examinations this year, while the balance of Tls. 183,607 odd is asked to be carried forward until the contributions amount up again to Tls. 300,000 or upwards when the memorialist will again ask for the Imperial Grace.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board report thereon.*

APPOINTMENTS IN THE YANGTZE NAVAL
SERVICE.

A joint memorial by Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Liang Kiang provinces, and Huang Yi-shéng, Admiral of the Yangtze, recommending seven officers for certain posts connected with the Naval service of the Yangtze.—*Rescript: Noted.*

2nd June.

MILITARY COLONISTS TO TUNGWAN.

T'ao Mu, Governor of the New Dominion, states that in 1888 the ex-Governor of the province, Liu Chin-t'ang, obtained the permission of the Throne to combine the Manchu battalions, hitherto garrisoning Urumtsi and Lake Barkoul and send them as military colonists to Tungwan in the district of Kuch'ong, there to cultivate the ground, but requesting that as the district in question was but a wild country, it was requisite that three years should be given the projected colonists to prepare for their immigration. This was allowed in a Rescript by His Majesty. On expiration of this period of probation in 1891, memorialist, being informed that the said Manchu regiments were still unable to proceed to Tungwan, obtained His Majesty's consent for another term of three years to be given these troops to sell off their effects, pay their debts and clear off all incumbrances, before proceed-

ing to their new district. This term is again on the eve of expiration, but memorialist finds that as the district of Tungwan is a bare waste and the earth unacquainted with the agriculturist's implements for the past century or so, it will be difficult to obtain any satisfactory results. Again, the recent exigencies of the times have compelled all the troops in the New Dominion to be on the *qui vive*, and drills and manoeuvres have been the order of the day for the past six months, hence the Manchu regiments in question who have been no exceptions to the rule have had their attention confined entirely to their martial duties, to the neglect of their secondary duties of colonists. Under these circumstances these troops still require their regular pay and memorialist asks for another term of three years before His Majesty should expect that the troops will pay their own expenses from the results of their labours in the fields.—*Rescript: Let it be so and let the proper Board take note.*

3rd June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let Chang T'ing-liao be appointed to the Taotaihip of the I-si Intendancy of Yunnan.

AN INDICTMENT AGAINST CHANG CHIH-TUNG.

Hsü Chih-siang, Chief Director of the Grand Court of Revision, prays that the Sacred Glance may rest on his memorial in which a high provincial official is accused, without prevarication, of the crime of ingratitude to the Imperial Grace. Chang Chih-tung, now Governor-General of the Hukuang Provinces, is a man of deep literary attainments, expansive knowledge, and thoroughly conversant with the Classics and History, beyond the common herd. In former years when memorialist was a colleague of his in the Imperial Academy, Chang Chih-tung was the object of deep admiration and respect not only on the memorialist's part, but because of the former's erudition sincerely venerated by the rest of the members who were completed dwarfed by his superior literary attainments. At that time Chang Chih-tung and the now degraded Expositor of the Hanlin or Imperial Academy, Chang P'ei-lün, were conceded to be the chief leaders of the *literati* of the southern portion of the Metropolitan Prefecture and having made a name for brilliant patriotism for themselves were introduced some time during the 5th and 6th years of the reign of Kuang Hsü (1879-80) to the Imperial Notice of Their Majesties the Empress

Dowager and the Emperor, by Li Hung-tsoo, a member of the Grand Council of State. Your Majesty gave them both every latitude for the exercise of their talents and so within a few years from the time of their being brought before the Imperial Notice Chang Chih-tung was made Governor of Shansi and subsequently sent to direct affairs in Kuangtung. The great importance of this latter post was the initial step towards filling the man's heart with haughty pride. For instance, such of his subordinates as the Provincial Treasurer and Judge and Tao-tais who had a right of audience on specified days of the month were often compelled to wait for ten hours at a stretch seeking for an audience and often had to withdraw without accomplishing their object. This became such a matter of common occurrence that Chang Chih-tung made no pretence of offering any excuses for this unwonted conduct. As for officers of the grades of prefects and district magistrates he did not deign to glance at them. He never made any enquiries as to the principles of his subordinates, of their fitness, or otherwise; or examined into their condition whether these men were energetic or lazy in their duties. If he was fond of a man he usually loaded him with a dozen and more offices, while those to whom he entertained a dislike, could rarely even get a glance at his face the year round. Unfortunately the men Chang Chih-tung liked were those of giddy empty-headed qualities, votaries of pleasure and who noticed a thing only when there seemed to be a chance of enriching themselves. Earnest-minded sober men were relegated to the category of useless men and hence obtained no employment under him. He took up matters at pleasure and employed no set regulations to guide them, and his secretaries and clerks suffered exceedingly by this aliphod policy. He made secret inquiries into the affairs of wealthy people of the province or of rich sojourners and when he found an opportunity he took advantage of it to obtain money by fines and contributions which were dubbed "voluntary." Some of these fines and "voluntary contributions" sometimes amounted up from Tls. 100,000 to Tls. 200,000. The principles of government being thus violated, the money thus obtained was squandered in a reckless manner. Granted, he used none for his own private ends, yet it seemed like throwing about as much mud and sand to view the way he employed money. He called it "Using it for the public services;" but

really it was throwing the funds in the "Land of Empty Void." He knew as well as any one that he was simply filling the pockets of unprincipled underlings, but he pretended to be indifferent although it was hard to bear on his own part. None of his subordinates dared to remonstrate with him, nor was he in harmony with his immediate principal subordinates. It has become a common saying that Wang Chih-chün, his Provincial Treasurer, is a man of grasping and avaricious character, eager to repay a debt of gratitude and revenge himself on an enemy. He has tried to get on the right side of Chang Chih-tung's wife in order to gain his ends. Hence Chang Chih-tung, thinking that Wang Chih-chün is a man of ability recommends him in high terms to the Throne. The sub-prefect Tsoo Fêng-ch'ang is a sycophant. A man of mediocre talents he is energetic in running the errands of his superiors and waiting upon them and so has succeeded in obtaining the favour of Chang Chih-tung who has taken the man into his confidence who on the other hand seldom leaves his superior's side. Hence officials, as a rule, who desire anything flatter and bribe him to obtain their ends. In sooth the man's reputation is exceedingly offensive. But this Governor-General is contended to be befooled by him because he thinks himself clever and not to be outwitted. During Chang Chih-tung's five years' Viceroyship of the Liang Kuang, he squandered government funds, including the money extorted as "voluntary" contributions, to the tune of not less than several tens of million taels. The only thing he did worthy of mention was the institution of the Kuang Yü College and Library for the benefit and encouragement of literary talents. Yet, with all that, these institutions were laid down on most extravagant lines. The rest of his enterprises consisted of fruitless extravagance and useless expenditure. In 1889 he wrote a thrilling memorial on the construction of a railway from Lukou Bridge, near Peking, to Hankow, in the province of Hupeh. In view of this an Imperial Decree was issued ordering him to exchange to the Viceroysalty of the Hukuang provinces in order to take up the question of railways as he proposed it. As soon as Chang Chih-tung received the Imperial Commands, he felt that he had lost his chance. Knowing well, as he did, that the construction of railways according to his ideas was impossible, and not expecting that he would be chosen for the task, he wrote an eloquent memorial for no other reason than to go

against the majority, and so show himself to be outside the common herd. But the wisdom of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager and the keen perception of the Emperor, saw through the fallacy of Chang Chih-tung's plans, and so commanded him to try them. He was unable to do as he offered in his memorial and so changed it into making steel and materials for the projected railway first. Getting possession of large sums of money for his purposes he became guilty of too lightly believing in the words of others. To-day it was opening an iron mine; to-morrow a coal mine. Taking advantage of his weakness people joined him asking for this and then for that, without ceasing. So that for instance, Tls. 5,000 was thrown away as an experiment on this thing and again Tls. 10,000 on another. None of his schemes succeeded under this kind of daily extravagance. Failing in funds this Viceroy commenced to follow the system he inaugurated when Governor-General of the Liangkuang provinces. Other grave faults he had, such as shaking Hunan to its foundations by trying to introduce telegraphs in that province; tearing down the Tung bridge, in Hupeh, in order to pass his machinery-laden boats without extra labour or trouble, to their destination. The excitement caused by these actions almost resulted in rebellion and caused much sorrow to the Imperial Bosom. Again, such misdemeanours as not reporting to the Throne when his own *yamés* caught fire, and forcing department and district magistrates on being appointed to office, to contribute to the public exchequer—instances such as these can scarcely be enumerated. He styled this, "nourishing the people" when really it was done for his own ends. In other words this high official nourishes the people for his own ends; but all this really tends to absorbing the vitality of the people who are looking around for other sources of support and it is to be feared will result in disaster and rebellion for the province of Hupeh. The people of Peking in talking over the unlimited and endless extravagances of this high official feel all the more indignant at him because presuming upon the favour with which Their Majesties the Dowager Empress and the Emperor regard him, he still prosecutes his reckless and suicidal policy. Taken as a whole it at first seemed to the memorialist that the usual conduct of Chang Chih-tung in managing the affairs of State, seemed loyalty itself; his deeds seemed bold: his principles un-

bending: and his policy far-sighted, when in truth he backed up his ambition by boasting and big words. His strength is too weak for the important post he holds and although his exterior may seem to the beholder to be flourishing, yet it is all emptiness within. Moreover he has many commencement-ments but few completions and most of his institutions have ended in nothing substantial. He resembles, to the memorialist, Ying Hao of the ancient Chin dynasty and Wang Ngan-shéh of the Sung period. Amongst the memorials of the high officials of the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations no deeds—on paper—surpass those of Chang Chih-tung, while for speciousness of reasoning, eccentricity in deeds and cunning, no one again can come up to this Chang Chih-tung. This man is to be trusted neither with office in the provinces nor with the reins of government within the capital. All he is fitted for is literary work and to write theses on classical works and compendiums. This is what he really excels in. Last year this high official in writing a congratulatory scroll on the anniversary of the birthday of the Grand Secretary, Li Hung-chang, declared in a certain part:—"The exercise of virtue (good deeds) depends on the strength (of mind) of a man. If it be of an expansive nature the world is too small for such a man (meaning himself) to turn about in!" In other words, the vast expanse of the Hukuang provinces is considered by this high official to be too restricted for such a remarkable personage as himself. What an unlikely action! Why should this man use such exceedingly blatant and crazy expressions? The cousin of Chang Chih-tung is the Grand Secretary Chang Chih-wan, a Minister who has occupied for many years positions of trust in the government of the State. It is more than likely that unwillingness to offend the latter has been the cause of no one memorialising to the Throne the extravagant conduct of his cousin who is the subject of this memorial. But memorialist having followed the career of this high official step by step and having obtained sufficient proofs, prays that the Sacred Glance might rest on a memorial which speaks the truth and asks no favours. Nor does the memorialist think it likely, under the circumstances, that Chang Chih-wan will try to screen his cousin of his misdemeanours.

RESULT OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE CHARGES AGAINST CHANG CHIH-TUNG.

Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Liangkuang provinces, presents the results

of his investigations regarding the indictment preferred against Chang Chih-tung when he was Governor-General of the Kuang provinces, and begs to state that the charges laid against that official are the result of hearsay and lack authenticity. With reference to the above, the memorialist received through the Grand Council, despatches, dated the 12th of March last, containing an Imperial Decree handed to the Council by the Grand Secretariat to the effect that a certain person had memorialised against a high provincial officer charging him with ingratitude to the Imperial Grace and maladministration of the duties of his post, and that the charges so made were true. In view of this the memorialist was commanded to make the necessary investigations and report thereon to the Throne. The memorialist must confess that when he first arrived at Canton he also heard it reported that the said Chang Chih-tung while in office had shown laziness in granting audiences to his subordinates; that he showed favouritism in the choice of his officers; that he had no method in inaugurating or finishing his schemes; and moreover, that he was guilty of reckless extravagance. But as time went on, memorialist had the chance of investigating the charges and eventually found that they were without foundation, and in all probability were the result of spite on the part of men who could not get what they wanted, and of men who not knowing thoroughly the state of affairs spread about the rumours for ends of their own. Now if Your Imperial Majesty will graciously consider the matter, such men as a Governor-General's colleagues, the Provincial Treasurer and Judge, and the Taotais, for instances, such high officials are all appointed by Imperial Decree to their posts, the duties of which are in intimate relation with those of the Governor-General or Governor of the province. If Chang Chih-tung then, did not always, whenever required, grant audiences to these subordinates, the administration of the provinces under him would naturally have collapsed forthwith. I have often heard that when subordinates wished to report to him certain matters, however busy he might be, Chang Chih-tung never failed to grant them immediate audience, while book or accounts in hand he would listen to their reports. There never was such a thing as these officials being made to wait for hours together without obtaining a sight of him. As for his immediate subordinates, the other high authorities and Taotai, never has it happened in this

way to them. Regarding the expectant officials, however, as their number is legion, such as have business with him are always admitted to an audience, whilst those who have none, naturally fail to obtain their wish except in rare instances. This procedure is general all over the Empire and not to Chang Chih-tung alone. The talents of men are variable. Some men when given several posts still have extra time on their hands, whilst others are unable to attend properly even to the duties of a single post. Under Chang Chih-tung's régime, one man was frequently found to have several posts, but these were given him according to his abilities, and never has there been any failure reported yet. If indeed Chang Chih-tung was guilty of misjudgment in his choice of officers what would have become of all his schemes? The memorialist has heard that when Chang Chih-tung was a member of the Imperial Academy that he was in the habit of continuing his studies right into the small hours of the morning. He has not altered this habit, attending to his duties, now that he holds such a high office in the provinces. When he arrived for the first time at Canton it was a period of manifold duties. He worked day and night on them regardless of health. One acquainted with them would call it, "Working throughout the night at his duties, overtaking his strength and opposing laziness in others." The person desirous of libelling him would style it, "No method in beginning or ending, no proper time for work." Be this as it may, since Chang Chih-tung never yet failed in his duties such unimportant eccentricities are not worthy of going deeply into. The fines Chang Chih-tung collected amounted to between Tls. 700,000 and Tls. 800,000. He has already given an account of them to the Throne and his account of them lies on record in memorialist's *yamén*. He obtained these sums from extortionate *yamén* underlings, gambling syndicates of various sorts, and subordinate officials of avaricious and grasping nature: he never extorted them from wealthy families. He expended these sums on the military chest of his troops; on famine relief; for the benefit of the agriculturist; in aid of poor students; and in the building of important public works. These sums were not spent on useless schemes nor were they illegal money collected through avarice and fraud. He used them for the benefit of the higher objects of the State and Army and in lower objects such as aid to the people. All these actions are in reason

and order, how can it be called injustice? Moreover he did all this alone and without the assistance of his subordinates. As for Wang Chih-ta'ün, he was transferred by Imperial Decree from an expectant Taotai-ship of Kiangsu to the Grain Commissionership of Kuangtung. Finding him to be an able man Chang Chih-tung gave him every opportunity and so twice appointed him Acting Provincial Treasurer of Kuangtung. This official's actions in office were all in order and can not be termed arbitrary, so as to merit the epithet of avaricious and grasping. Tsao Fêng-ch'ang is Chang Chih-tung's civil adjutant, and his duty is to run about on errands and be at call whenever wanted. There is a bad habit amongst the official classes to be suspicious about any person who appears to be a confidential servant of high officials. It is from this habit that such rumours have arisen about Tsao Fêng-ch'ang. High provincial authorities and Taotais have not the sole power to employ, dismiss, grant, or take away office from any one, nor can a Governor-General or Governor do anything regardless of public sentiment. An Adjutant of a Viceroy or Governor is such an inferior official that he cannot have much power to interfere in any way, for good or for evil. On inspecting the old account books memorialist finds that the large sums of money called "Tea money" yearly presented to the Adjutants of the Viceroy at Canton by merchants in the Foreign trade are recorded as having been voluntarily given up by Tsao Fêng-ch'ang and paid into the public treasury. Chang Chih-tung's government of his subordinates is very strict, hence it is not probable that he should be blinded by the craftiness of his underlings. When Chang Chih-tung arrived at Kuangtung the Li ruffians, stranger ruffians, and native ruffians were in full flourish and waiting for a chance to obtain their several aims although Pêng Yü-lin was there, in his energetic way observing these ruffians. The money required to pay the troops, and raise extra regiments for the purpose of obliterating these pests was in far the greater part furnished by Chang Chih-tung. The many expenditures requiring his care cannot therefore be termed extravagance and reckless expenditure. The Customs Station at Huang Chiang, the Salt Revenue Collector's Office at Ts'aoch'iao were entirely swept away as to their former methods of "perquisites" and these monies all turned to their proper channels, the Public Exchequer. The energy and devices used in bringing

about such a satisfactory state of affairs will hardly allow any reckless expenditure of government funds on useless objects. Whatever expenditures there were during the government of Chang Chih-tung in Kuangtung they are all entered in the proper books and reported to the Throne. There is no mark of useless expenditure to be found. The Colleges and Library built by him were either from funds deducted out of his own salary—a pretty large sum—or from the money obtained through the fines above named; not a tithe of proper government funds was expended on these institutions: this is a well-known fact to everyone in Canton. The years spent by Chang Chih-tung in Kuangtung were years of hard labour and self-denial, and a change in the face of affairs, for the better, has been quickly apparent. If memorialist had not personally come to Canton and been an eye-witness of the results of Chang Chih-tung's government, he confesses that he also would have been misled by the rumours that are extant concerning Chang Chih-tung. Since Your Imperial Majesty's Decree has ordered a strict and impartial investigation into the charges above named memorialist in reporting the results now gives the truth as he has found them, nor dare he venture to venerate his report through any private feelings of friendship for the subject of this indictment.—*Rescript: A Decree will be promulgated with regard to the above.*

4th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

- (1) Let Chung Liang be appointed the Military Deputy Governor of Ili.
- (2) Let Fulehmingöh, Military Deputy Governor of Ili, be sent as Military Assistant Governor of Tarbagatai.
- (3) We regret exceedingly to learn of the death of Ngoherheh'ingöh, Military Deputy Governor of Ili, who did such loyal service in the campaigns against the rebels in the reign of Hsien Fêng. Let his family be given, as an act of special grace, the grant usually allowed at the death of a Military Governor who has died in harness, and let his deeds be entered at the Historiographers' Academy into the historical records of the country and also let any misdeeds of his be cancelled from the official records. His coffin shall be permitted to enter Peking and let a further sum of Tls. 500 be paid from the Treasury of the New Dominion to the deceased family for the expenses of removal. Furthermore when his son K'uei Kang shall have approached the proper age let

his Banner officers bring him for an audience as a mark of our regard for an old servant and officer. Respect this!

(4) Let Pao Nien be granted the brevet rank of a Military Deputy Governor, and let him be appointed Commander of the Sibo Banner Force in Ili. He is allowed to travel to his destination by the Imperial Post.

(5)—Kuan Tsai-ti'en is appointed to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the Shihch'ung city forces of Kuangtung.

KIANGSI'S QUOTA TO THE ADMIRALTY.

Fang Ju-yi, Acting Governor of Kiangsi, reports the sending of the eighth instalment of Tls. 20,000 for the Admiralty Exchequer, of the Tls. 300,000 that have been ordered by Edict to be paid out of the Likin revenues of Kiangsi for the year 1892. This money has as usual been paid into the San-chiu-yuan bank for transference to the Northern Superintendent of Trade, Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of Chihli at Tientsin, and the usual sum of Tls. 200 has been paid to the said bank as a remuneration for their trouble. Rescript:—*Noted. Let the proper yamé also take note.*

5th July.

No news of interest.

6th June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Since the commencement of last spring the Metropolitan Prefecture has been visited by opportune rains and the fields in consequence have flourished in such a manner as to promise a future harvest of abundance. Recently, however, the inclemency of the weather has been such as to mar the prospect of the crops just at the moment when they were ripening. It is necessary then to beseech the clemency of the gods and in our anxiety for our subjects, it is our purpose to present ourselves in person at the temple of the Most High to offer sacrifices on the 8th inst. and pray for opportune weather once more.

MEMORIAL OF LIU K'UN-YI WITH REFERENCE TO THE INDICTMENT AGAINST CHANG CHIH-TUNG.

The memorial of Liu K'un-yi, of the Premier grade, Governor-General of the Liangkiang Provinces, with reference to the investigations made by him regarding the indictment against Chang Chih-tung in his present position as Governor-General of the Hukuang Provinces. A despatch from the Grand Council of State bearing date of the 12th of March last was received by the memorialist enclosing an edict commanding

the memorialist to investigate into the truth of the allegations made by a certain personage against Chang Chih-tung on the ground of base ingratitude to the Imperial grace and abusing the duties of his post in the provinces. The charges were:—

(1) That on his translation from the Viceroyalty of the Liangkuang to that of the Hukuang provinces, Chang Chih-tung contrary to the programme laid down in his memorial changed his plans into that of making steel and opening coal and other kinds of mines.

(2) Begging and getting possession of large sums of money, he became guilty of too lightly believing in the words of others.

(3) Manufacturing expedients in order to extort or borrow money from his people.

(4) Erecting telegraph poles in Hunan and tearing down the T'ung Bridge in Hupeh so that he nearly drove the people of those provinces to the verge of open rebellion.

(5) Not reporting to the Throne when his own *yamé* got on fire and extorting subscriptions from Department and District Magistrates on entering into office.

In a word, depending upon his own talents and influence he acted in a reckless manner defying comment. The other charges were against Wang Chih-ch'ün, Provincial Treasurer of Hupeh, for mean and parsimonious conduct, and against the sub-prefect Tsao Fêng-ch'ang whose reputation was very offensive and unsavoury. Memorialist was further commanded to report on the charges as he found them, and to give the truth of the whole matter. Memorialist having read the Imperial mandate was filled with awe and admiration at the wonderful perspicuity of His Imperial Majesty in which His Majesty has displayed his love for investigation into the conduct of his Ministers, and now begs to lay the result of his investigations before the sacred glance.

In the first place, Wuchang being a long distance from Nanking, it was not an easy thing to make investigations and get to the bottom of the matter, hence memorialist despatched a deputy to the capital of Hupeh to make secret inquiries of the mandarin and wealthy classes of the city for proofs of the truth of the above charges. Roughly speaking, from the commencement of the ironworks, the opening of coal and other mines and the large sums required for them, it did seem to the uninitiated that the charges made against Chang Chih-tung were more likely than not. But when we come to think of it, coal and iron are important questions of the day and are

urgently required by the country. The inauguration of the ironworks and the opening of the coal and iron mines by Chang Chih-tung were therefore really in intimate relation to the scheme of creating a Central Board for iron and steel supply for the use of the country at large. He indeed only desired Tls. 2,000,000 as sufficient for his wants. Eventually Chang Chih-tung asked for another Tls. 700,000 for opening mines and producing steel. For this he can show an immense quantity of machinery purchased from abroad, nine-tenths of which has already arrived. The buildings for every and each kind of machinery are in process of construction, more than half of which have already been built and are occupied. There are the foundries for cast iron and wrought iron; for fine steel and wrought steel; and a uniform order is observed in the production of each branch of the iron industry, the names of which are too numerous to mention. At the present moment they are busy there in setting up the machinery. Everything is on a grand scale and accordingly requires large sums of money for the purpose. Iron has already been gotten out of the iron mines of Tayen, while the coal in Manganshan in the district of Chianghsia and Wangsanhshih in Tayen is considered to be the best that has so far been found. Indeed, coal from the mines at Wangsanhshih is already coming in unceasing batches to the works; owing to some rocky obstruction the coal is harder to obtain from the mines at Manganshan, but it is only a question of time. From the ironworks to the banks of the river, from Tayen to Wongshekang (Huangshihchiang) railways have been built for convenience of transport of the output of the mines in question. Such huge enterprises require large sums of money, and sometimes there happens a hitch in the payment of these sums which compels Chang Chih-tung to constitute a Committee of Ways and Means. This may perhaps have given rise to the rumour of his relapsing into his old ways at Canton of searching for money. It is always a matter of difficulty to bring a new undertaking to a successful issue, and various schemes differ in the amount required for pushing them through. It is also hard to receive immediate returns for such enterprises. Chang Chih-tung in his opening of mines, building of works, setting-up of smelting furnaces, and casting of steel is really following the Western methods. The scheme is a first adventure and everybody is a stranger to his duties; hence it na-

turally follows that one has to pay for his experience—more men than was necessary were employed and more money than necessary accordingly expended. This was at the commencement of his new scheme. But with experience gained it has recently appeared that a general reduction has been made in salaries, and the excess of men reduced, which seems to the memorialist to belie the charges of extravagance and waste of money. As to the charges in Hsü Chih-siang's memorial about the burning of telegraph poles and the tearing down of the T'ung bridge, thereby bringing the people of Hukuang to the verge of rebellion, it would appear that last year it was decided to connect the telegraph lines between the provinces of Hupeh and Hunan; but the telegraph men having got to Liling in Hunan, and the people of that city having never seen such things thought that such a step would be detrimental to them and so collecting in a large crowd burned the poles down. The local authorities, however, having received news of the outbreak arrived at the spot and having quelled the disturbance fined the city, making the people make good the amount that had been destroyed. Outside the Wangshan gate of the city of Wuchang is the Peh-t'ing new bridge. Last year when the mines were about to be opened owing to this bridge being too narrow and withal too low for the safe navigation of steamboats going beneath its arches, Chang Chih-tung gave orders to have it pulled down, intending to erect a handsome and commodious iron bridge for the convenience of traffic in its stead; but upon finding that the innovation was objected to by the people of that city he forthwith gave up the idea. There was not the slightest sign of disturbance in relation to that matter. The original memorial accused Chang Chih-tung of neglecting to report to the Throne the burning of his own *yamen* and the extortion of contributions from Department and District magistrates about to enter office. As to the first charge, the fire mentioned occurred in 1891 and only related to some houses belonging to the *yamen* annexe. As neither the grand entrance of the Viceregal *yamen* nor the archive or other offices were touched, and the conflagration being but of minor consequence, it was not necessary for Chang Chih-tung to take such a serious step as memorialising the Throne on the matter. The appointment of Department and District magistrates is made in accordance with established regulations and by rotation. Within the past few

years numerous provinces have been or are suffering from famines and visitations of the gods, and every one that is able to help is exhorted to contribute something to the famine funds. It is all done voluntarily and no instance of force can be proved. The charge of extortion in such cases is therefore the result of hearsay and unfounded rumour. The above is the result of memorialist's investigations into the conduct of the said Chang Chih-tung. As to Wang Chih-ch'ün, he was promoted from the Provincial Judgeship of Kuangtung to be Treasurer of Hupeh. All matters relating to the duties of his post and the employment of subordinates are referred to the Viceroy with whom he must consult. Hence it is not probable that Wang Chih-ch'ün can exercise any avarice in the matter. As to how that official repaid his debts of gratitude or revenge, memorialist cannot find the men upon whom he acted in the alleged manner. In former years when memorialist was Viceroy of the Liangkiang provinces, Wang Chih-ch'ün was then an expectant Taotai of Kiangsu, and memorialist always found him bold and capable in his duties. Now that he has become the Provincial Treasurer of Hupeh, according to memorialist's opinion he is a man every way fitted for his post and none of the charges that have been made against him can be depended upon. Tsao Fêng-ch'ang is a native of Kiangsu; formerly when an expectant Chehsien, and in mourning for a parent, he arrived at Kuangtung and became a secretary in the Viceregal *yamen*. The man apparently was a clever one and Chang Chih-tung had much confidence in him. Although there is no proof of that official's accepting bribes for the purpose of getting men some post or other, still it seems that he was much courted by the officials at the capital of the province, and the gates of his residence were crowded "as in a market" by favour-seekers from the great man. Hence arose many rumours derogatory to his fair name. These are the result of memorialist's investigations into the conduct of Wang Chih-ch'ün and Tsao Fêng-ch'ang. In conclusion, therefore, memorialist is of the opinion that Chang Chih-tung is a man whose learning and great abilities will fully justify the confidence that has been placed in him by the Throne. As for his ironworks it is natural that at their commencement there are still a great many things yet wanting. But since they have been commenced they should not be aban-

doned halfway. Chang Chih-tung is a man perfectly faithful and loyal to the Throne and his abilities are of a very high order. As the Throne has entrusted him with such high responsibilities the memorialist is sure that he will be able to carry his great schemes to a satisfactory conclusion to the advantage of the country. Memorialist would therefore pray that the Throne might command Chang Chih-tung to carry on his schemes with the aid of his subordinates, consulting upon the most reliable methods of accomplishing them. As Wang Chih-ch'ün, Provincial Treasurer of Hupeh, is really a man careful and cautious in the duties of his post and there are no proofs of avarice or grasping conduct to be found against him, memorialist prays that the Throne will take no more heed of the charge made against that official. The promoted sub-prefect Tsao Fêng-ch'ang being found guilty of disregard of the comments of others, and therefore imperfect respect of himself, memorialist thinks that a decree should be issued depriving him of his rank and that he should be forced to return to his native town: thereby making him a warning to others who might not respect their own responsibilities as officials. The above are the results of the memorialist's investigations in obedience to the Imperial Mandate.

7th June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let Tsên Yu-fu be appointed Brigadier General of the Holi Military District in Yunnan Province.

THE COURT.

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor will go to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock in person to sacrifice at the Temple of the Most High.

THE NEW LITERARY CHANCELLOR OF FUKIEN.

Wang Si-fan, Literary Chancellor of the Province of Fukien, reports his arrival at Foochow on the 12th May, having taken the sea route from Tientsin, and furthermore states that he took over the seals of the Chancellorship on the 18th of the same month from his retiring predecessor Shên Yuan-shên, and thanks the Throne again for the distinction that has been conferred on him.—*Rescript: Noted.*

THE RETIRING LITERARY CHANCELLOR OF FUKIEN.

Shên Yuan-shên, Junior Vice-President of the Board of War and retiring Literary Chancellor of Fukien, thanks the Imperial

Grace that has allowed him to retire from the latter office which on account of his bodily infirmities and continued sickness he could not conscientiously perform without being guilty of slackness in his duties. His successor Wang Si-fan having arrived at Foochow, memorialist turned over to him the seals of the Fukien Literary Chancellorship on the 18th of May, and takes this opportunity to inform the Throne that he intends to return forthwith to Peking as soon as he feels himself strong enough to do so.—*Rescript: Noted.*

THE MILITARY EXPENSES OF KIRIN.

Ch'ang Shun, Military Governor and the Military Assistant Governor of Kirin Sakotulintapu, make a joint report on the military expenses of Kirin for the years 1891 and 1892. Owing to the existence of the numerous bands of outlaws infesting the province, extra regiments of disciplined cavalry and foot were added to the regular troops of the province, for the purpose of rooting out the nests of the outlaws. From the 1st moon of the 17th year of the reign of Kuang Hsi to the end of the 18th year the sum of Tls. 709,248 odd was received to pay the expenses of the entire forces of the province. The pay of the soldiers and camp-followers absorbed Tls. 592,160 odd. Tls. 31,872 odd were used to pay the superior officers and civilians attached to the various corps, while for new flags and colours as well as uniforms for the new regiments Tls. 4,214 odd were expended. Tls. 2,423 odd were spent on officers' remounts, and Tls. 48,575 were paid to the "Chih" brigade of cavalry. Tls. 6,295 odd were spent on the ammunition of the troops for the two years and Tls. 4,000 for the hire of carts and carriers connected with the troops, making an expenditure for the two years of Tls. 689,540 odd, and leaving a balance of Tls. 19,517 odd to be carried over to the year 1893 account to pay for the grain and salt required by the troops.—*Rescript: Let the yamén concerned take note and report thereon.*

PATROLLING THE GINSENG HILLS.

The same officials report that since the 3rd year of the reign of Hsien Feng (1853) it has been the custom for the Military Assistant Governor of Kirin and its dependencies to patrol the ginseng hill reservations, every quarter of the year except the summer quarter when the luxuriant undergrowth effectually barred the presence of man in the forests and glens of these ginseng reservations. According to

precedent these patrols were made last year, and everything was found to be quiet, no marauding bands being found in the vicinity digging for the precious roots.—*Rescript: Noted.*

8th June.

SUICIDES AND ROBBERS.

The Prince in command of the Peking gendarmerie reports the suicide of a Manchu official Chung Hua, by cutting his throat and the suicide by hanging of the wife of an eminent official also of Manchu descent. Also the capture of one band of eleven Peking robbers under a man named Wang Ta and that of another band of eight men under a *Gioro* or member of the collateral branch of the Imperial House, named En Lu, and prays that an Edict may be issued commanding the Board of Punishment to investigate and try the cases mentioned above.—*Rescript: Let it be so.*

RESTORATION OF TAOTAI'S RANK.

Lí Hung-ch'ang, Governor General of Chihli, Co-President of the Board of Admiralty, Grand Secretary and Earl of Shu-yi, asks that the expectant Taotai of Anhui, Yuan Ping-ch'ên, who had been stripped of his rank for a slight misdemeanour last year be restored his rank as the said official had tried to atone for his fault by contributing Tls. 16,000 in aid of the famine funds of Chihli and Shansi.—*Rescript: Let the yamén concerned take note.*

DISBANDING TROOPS IN ANHUI.

Shên Ping-ch'ên, Governor of Anhui, reports that owing to the disturbances of the society men in 1891 along the Yangtze, he received permission of the Throne to raise 1,000 men. These were divided, 800 men into the new right and left battalions of the Governor's guards and the remaining 200 men into the *yamén* special guards. As the disturbances in question have been quelled and there is no further need of the new battalions memorialist proposes, from motives of economy, to disband the left battalion of his guards as well as the *yamén* special guards, giving them each one month's extra pay to pay their passage to their native villages. He still keeps one battalion on hand in case of emergency, but if everything keeps on as quietly as usual he intends also to disband it next year.—*Rescript: Let the proper yamén take note.*

9th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

1.—Let Tékchénggh, Taotai of the Pach'ang Intendency of Chihli province, give up the seals of his post and come up to Peking for an audience.

2.—Let Jui To be appointed to the Tao-taiship of the Pach'ang Intendency in Chihli.

3.—Let the animals to be prepared by the Court of Sacrificial Worship for sacrifice at the Temples of Earth and Beneficent Rain on the occasion of the Summer Equinox on the 21st of June be first examined by K'uei Pin and the entrails by Li Hung-tsoo.

PUNISHMENT ASKED FOR IN THE CASE OF A CHEHSIEN.

K'uei Chün, Governor of Kiangsu, states that the Chehsien of Wutsing, Wu Ping by name, presented a petition to him to the effect that on leaving the city of Wutsing on the 22nd March to examine the river works under his jurisdiction, the city was entered on the night of the 24th of that month by a gang of robbers who broke into a bank owned by a man named Liu Si-fu, and having cleaned the place of everything of value made away with their booty before the other civil or military officials of Wutsing could do anything and that since then not one capture had been made of the criminals. This is a negligence for the safety of the city and carelessness of his duties which should not be overlooked in the case of the Chehsien in question. Memorialist therefore having consulted with Liu K'un-yi, the Governor-General of the Liangkiang Provinces, now requests that the Throne should signify its displeasure at the conduct of Wu Ping, Chehsien of Wutsinghsien by ordering the said official to be turned over to the proper Board for the determination of a penalty. The memorialist has also given the said Chehsien two months to capture the robbers and recover the booty taken by them, at the end of which time, if unsuccessful, he is to be consigned to heavier penalties.—*Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

ARRIVAL AT AMOY OF THE NAVAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF FUKIEN.

Yang Ch'i-chên, Admiral and Naval Commander-in-Chief of Fukien, reports his arrival at Foochow, after leaving the Sacred Presence in March, where having consulted upon certain matters of importance with the Governor-General of Minchéh, he started forthwith for Amoy where he took

charge of the silver seal of his office on the 18th of April.—*Rescript: Noted.*

10th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Tsai Ts'ien and others have jointly memorialised us to the effect that certain officials appointed to supervise works on Imperial buildings had failed in their duties and that upon being accused by their colleagues had shown obstinacy and wilful prevarication. The memorialists therefore request that an Imperial order be promulgated commanding the said delinquents to be examined by the Board of Punishments, and also pray that they also should be turned over to the proper Board for a determination of a penalty for their remissness in not keeping a more careful watch over their subordinates. With reference to the accusation laid by the First Class Secretary of the Board of Works, K'uei Hêng, and others, against the Second Class Secretary of the same Board, Wo Jung-wu, for carelessness in repairing the battlements of the wall around the Summer Palaces as well as the red poles used for piles at the same place, and as Tsai Ts'ien and his colleagues have made a searching examination without success of the delinquent official owing to wilful prevarication and obstinacy on his part, let the said delinquent Second Class Secretary Wo Jung-wu and his accusers the First Class Secretary K'uei Hêng, the Second Class Secretary Yung Shuh and Ch'ang Ts'ing and the Deputy Assistant Secretary Ying Hwei be forthwith sent over to the Board of Punishments for strict examination, and let their penalties (if any) be determined according to the laws of the Empire. Finally as Tsai Ts'ien, Tsai Cho and Chih Yuan have all been remiss in their subordinates, let them be handed over to the proper Board for the determination of a penalty.

(2)—A Decree appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

REPORT OF AN INCURSION INTO YUNNAN TERRITORY BY ANNAMITE MARAUDERS AND REWARDS ASKED FOR THE OFFICERS WHO QUELLED THE OUTBREAK.

Wang Wên-shao, Governor-General of the Yünkuei provinces, and T'an Chün-pei, Governor of Yunnan, jointly request that appropriate rewards may be granted to the officers belonging to the Yunnan marches bordering on the frontiers of Annam, for services rendered by them in quelling a roving band of Annamite

marauders who had made an incursion into the district of Kueijên, belonging to the prefecture of K'aihua. As the district of Kueijên, above-named, lies coterminous with the Annamese frontiers it is often subject to visits by marauding bands from the other side, who among other things try to spy out the land and, if possible, endeavour to obtain a foothold in Yuunan territory. In view of this state of affairs the memorialists gave stringent orders to the troops guarding the marches to exercise the strictest watch over the frontiers and to prevent promiscuous entrance into Chinese territory from the Annamese side. In the month of February last memorialists received successive despatches from the ex-sub-prefect of Lungling, the expectant prefect T'an K'o-chên, now commanding the Suiyuan regiment, to the effect that a roving band of marauders numbering over a thousand men under the leadership of one Hsia Kuei-an and his lieutenant Huang Yuan-sai had managed to break into the village of Huangshup'i and had also ravaged the adjacent villages of Chujên and Fênwu. That they had on the morning of the 15th of January last at daybreak succeeded in surprising the old fort and eventually stormed and captured another fortified village called Mêngkang. On receiving news of this outbreak T'an K'o-chên immediately detached troops under Captain Yuan Yung-ho against the marauders who besieged the old fort on the 16th of January and succeeded in shooting and killing five of the brigands. On the following day, the 17th, the marauders broke through the encircling troops at the Old Fort and during the pursuit which ensued along the upper and lower dykes over sixty of the marauders were killed and a quantity of arms and horses captured. The marauders then retreated to the new fort and on the 19th of the same month were again surrounded by the troops. The marauders then marched out of the new fort and offered battle whereupon after losing the lieutenant Huang Yuan-sai and over twenty men they were again compelled to seek shelter within the walls of the new fort. The troops then endeavoured to storm the new fort on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of the same month and succeeded in killing over fifty of the marauders, as well as severely wounding the leader Hsia Kuei-an. After more fighting of a more or less severe character, a decisive battle was at last fought on the night of the 5th of February in which over a hundred of the marauders lost their lives, while in the flight and pur-

suit that followed numbers were killed and drowned in a river in the vicinity of the field of battle. The marauders then pursued their flight across the borders into Annam; Huangshup'i was then recovered and the whole district of Kueijên pacified by the troops. The government losses amounted first and last to about fifty men killed and a much larger number wounded. It has also been reported that the leader of the marauders, Hsia Kuei-an, has since died from the severe wounds he had received in the various battles with the troops. Rewards are therefore asked for twelve military and six civil officers for their commendable activity in putting down this incursion which at one time would have assumed serious proportions had not the promptness and bravery evinced by these officers prevented the brigands from increasing.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the Board of Civil Appointments and War take note.*

11th June.

No news of interest this day.

12th June.

THE CHIHLI AUTUMNAL EXECUTIONS.

Li Hung-chang, Governor of Chihli, reports that owing to his being compelled to reside at Tientsin he has not been able to conduct personally the final examinations of the criminals of his province destined for execution in the following autumn. He has therefore appointed the Provincial Treasurer and Judge, Yü Ch'ang and Chou Fu, to take his place.—*Rescript: Noted.*

REPORT OF A TOUR OF INSPECTION OVER THE MILITARY DEFENCES OF HEILUNGCHIANG.

I-k'o-t'ang-a, Military Governor of the Heilungchiang region on the Amur, reports that according to precedent he started from Tsitsihar on the 7th of March to inspect the troops under his jurisdiction in the Heilungchiang region. He first went to Suihuat'ing and reviewed six battalions of mounted troops, calling over the roll personally. The evolutions performed by these troops were fairly good and the men and firearms in good condition. The target shooting showed an average of sixty per-cent of hits and he gave prizes to the best shots. While at this place, he received over a hundred and ten petitions from the people making various complaints and so ordered members of his suite to make the necessary investigations into the charges that had been preferred. It was not until the 1st of April that he arrived at T'iehshan, on the lower banks of the Heilungchiang, and there he reviewed five regiments of

troops. The evolutions gone through by these men were prompt and showed a proper knowledge of their profession. The target shooting showed eighty per cent of hits. The memorialist desires to give special praise to these troops on account of their thorough discipline, condition and soldier-like bearing. In the middle of April, returning by way of Suihuat'ing, the memorialist arrived at the encampments of the upper banks of the river, and reviewed the troops there. Although the troops here showed a proper knowledge of their duties, the Brigade Commander Shêng K'ò, evinced a remissness in the attention of his duties and the barracks of the troops as well as the fortifications all showed an inexcusable degree of haste and carelessness in their building. The memorialist accordingly removed Shêng K'ò and his second in command Ch'ang Chün from their post, at the same time depriving them of their buttons, and appointed in their stead *pro tem*. Generals Wu Hua and Ch'ian Fu, subject to the Throne's approval. The memorialist resumed his return journey on the 30th of April and arrived at Tsitsihar on the 6th of May.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War take note.*

13th June.

SENDING A SON TO THE PEKING EXAMINATIONS.

The Assistant Military Governor of Shanhaikuan, Ch'ien Tò, asks that his second son Ch'ang Fu, now an expectant Under Secretary of the Board of Works, at present allowed by Imperial Edict to stay at Shanhaikuan to assist the memorialist in looking after his household arrangements, may be allowed to go up to Peking for the extra Chujên literary examinations commanded by Imperial Edict last February to take place during the Autumn months in honour of H. I. M. the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday next year. As the youth has evinced commendable literary ambition, the memorialist is anxious to encourage it and now prays for the Imperial Assent.—*Rescript: Let the proper yamên take note.*

RETURN OF A BRIGADIER-GENERAL TO HIS OLD POST.

Ch'ên Yung-ch'ing, Brigadier-General of Tinghai in the Chusan Islands, reports his return on the 13th of May to Tinghai from his acting post at Haimên, Chekiang, to which place he had been sent last January, to act for the retiring Brigadier-General of Haimên. On the 3rd of May a despatch from Sung Chün, Governor of Chekiang,

was received by the memorialist informing him that the Throne had been pleased to appoint Sün Ch'ang-k'ai to Haimên and afterwards this officer arrived at Haimên to whom the memorialist handed over the seals and insignia of the said post. Having done this, memorialist returned to Tinghai and on the day following his arrival took over his seal and insignia of office, a proceeding which he is bound by law to report to be Throne.—*Rescript: Noted.*

14th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Two edicts appointing the Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of the provinces of Yünnan and Kueichow respectively, for the special Provincial Examinations of the Chujên degree, to be held in the following Autumn in honour of the sixtieth anniversary of the Empress Dowager's birthday next year.

Let Shih Tsêng, Senior Vice-President of the Board of War, who has nearly approached the age of eighty years, and accordingly is failing in hearing and eyesight, and has also shown other bodily infirmities, be permitted to retire with all honour from his post. As the said aged official has always shown commendable zeal and carefulness in the duties of his posts, as a special act of grace, let him retire on the full salary and pension usually awarded to an official of second grade.

A DEPARTMENT MAGISTRATE PETITIONED AGAINST BY HIS PEOPLE AND REMOVED FROM OFFICE.

I-kò-t'ang-a, Military Governor of Heilungchiang (Amoor region) reports that the department magistrate of Suihuat'ing, Wên Chih, who showed commendable zeal in defending Suihuat'ing in April of last year, against the rebel sectaries of Hsichiaoweitsz, under the leadership of one Liu Ching-ch'ing, and his lieutenant Ho Kuang-ta, having been petitioned against by the people of Suihuat'ing, the memorialist had removed the department magistrate in question from office to await an examination into the charges against him, and in the meanwhile has appointed an intelligent and clever official, Lu Siang by name, to be the acting magistrate of the department of Suihuat'ing. In view of the military services of the delinquent Wên Chih, he having also been instrumental in arresting two important members of the rebel forces, if he be found guilty of the charges preferred against him by the people under his jurisdiction, the memorialist thinks that some allowance should be made

in the summing up of the said official's case.
—*Rescript*: Let it be so and let the Board of Civil Appointments also take note.

15th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Let Yü Tè be transferred to the Deputy Captain-generalship of the Bordered Blue Manchu Banner Corps and let Yü Shu be appointed Deputy Captain-general of the Hanchûu Bordered White Banner Corps.

THE COURT.

Prince Li and others give thanks for the painted fans graciously given them by H.I.M. the Empress Dowager.

MURDER AND ELOPEMENT AT YARKAND.

T'ao Mu, an officer of the premier button and Governor of the New Dominion, reports a case coming under his cognisance where a native of Yarkand listening to the evil counsels of his paramour, murders the woman's husband and eventually elopes with her. According to the report of Pan Chên, acting Sub-prefect of Yarkand (Shach'êchou) to Li Tsung-pio, Acting Taotai of Kashgar, who sent a review of the case to Huang Kuang-ta, Acting Taotai of Urumtsi (Tihuafu) presiding with judicial powers of Provincial Judge, it appears that all the persons connected with this case are Turkis and natives of Yarkand. The murderer Seyd and his victim Roza were once intimate friends and at the latter's house the former frequently met and conversed with Yani, the wife of Roza, who did not seem to avoid the visitor. Hitherto Roza and Yani lived together harmoniously as man and wife until one day, during the month of July 1892, Roza being absent from home. Seyd commenced his illicit relations with Yani who thus became his paramour; nor did Yani receive any money or presents from Seyd all that time. Roza of course was kept in ignorance until one day, two months after (September), Seyd learning that Roza was again absent from home made a stolen visit upon Yani; but Roza returning suddenly, caught the guilty pair *in flagranti delicto* and in attempting to get a hold of Seyd, a fight between the two ensued resulting in the latter's escaping from the enraged husband's hands. Roza then turned his attention to Yani whom he gave a sound beating but was prevented from doing further harm by a peacemaker called Islam. His anger not yet appeased Roza forced his wife to promise to entice Seyd to the house where Roza intended to lie in wait for his enemy and then administer to him a severe thrashing and thus obtain satisfaction in this way. On

the 27th of October of the same year Yani managed to obtain a secret interview with Seyd and informed him of the trap Roza intended to lay for him and also wished Seyd to arrange further assignations; but Seyd having a wholesome fear of being caught was afraid to consent to coming again. Yani, however, being desperately enamoured of her paramour, formed the idea of murdering Roza in order to marry Seyd. So she laid before him her plans and Seyd consented to murder Roza the following night (28th October). Accordingly at dusk of that day Seyd secreted himself within the house of Roza and at the 3rd watch (11-12 o'clock, midnight), Roza being by that time fast asleep, Yani arose and admitted Seyd into the room. Hammer in hand Yani then administered a blow with the instrument upon Roza's head which awaking him he tried to cry out. Seyd then snatched the hammer from Yani's hands and rushing up hammered his blows at random upon the person of Roza. As it was then too dark to distinguish objects, it has been found to be impossible to properly assign to the two assailants the wounds that were found afterwards upon the murdered man. Be this as it may, by this time Roza was neither able to move nor cry out; but Yani, his wife, fearing that life was not yet extinct took a cotton sash and slipping it around the neck of Roza and giving one end to Seyd they pulled both ways and speedily gave the finishing stroke to the bloody deed. Having done this Seyd and Yani fled together giving out at the various places they visited during their flight that they were man and wife. The murder was eventually discovered by Islam who at once gave the alarm to the murdered man's relatives who in their turn notified the deed to the *aksakal* or headman of the ward. A *post mortem* examination having been held and various facts elicited from the neighbours of the deceased, a warrant was issued and the guilty pair were soon captured. The above incidents having been obtained from the criminals they were sent as condemned persons for a final examination to the Taotai holding the judicial powers of a Provincial Judge at Urumtsi, and eventually verified by the memorialist. The law provides in the case of a woman guilty of *crim. con.* and murdering her husband that she should be put to death by the "slow and shameful process," and also provides that although the paramour may not have been the person originating the crime, if he eventually assists in putting the woman's husband to death, and then

runs away with her, he shall be forthwith beheaded in public. The case of Yani who has been guilty of *crim. con.* and eventually murdering her husband, and of Seyd who although not having originated the crime did assist Yani in murdering her husband Roza, therefore coincides with the law provided in their case, and the memorialist therefore asks the Imperial consent to the sentence that has been passed to execute Yani by the "slow and shameful process" and that Seyd should forthwith be beheaded. With reference to the weapons used in the murder, memorialist has commanded that the cotton sash and hammer should be destroyed whilst those not involved in the case will be liberated.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments report speedily thereon.*

A REPORT FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1892
OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF TROOPS
IN THE NEW DOMINION.

T'ao Mu, Governor of the New Dominion, states that the report for the latter half of the 17th year of Kuang Hsi (1891) regarding the actual number of troops, artillerymen, military post-road and barrier station patrols, and children of the charity schools in the New Dominion having already been placed in His Majesty's hands, he now begs to do the same having reference to the first half or seven months (including the 6th intercalary month) of the 18th year of the reign of Kuang Hsi (1892.) According to the report of the Grain Commissioner of the New Dominion *bond fide* rations were handed out during that time to ninety-nine half battalions and one company of horse and foot and four batteries of artillery, amounting to a total number of 24,844 men including clerks and non-commissioned officers. In addition to these there were 1,731 camp followers and sutlers (drilled); 379 officers; 126 officers connected with the Department of Scrutiny; and 6,283 extra sutlers and camp followers, officers' servants, grooms, officers' private grooms, carters, and officers' private carters. The list of the post-road and barrier station patrols, couriers, and students in the charity schools is given in a separate paper.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.*

16th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

- (1) Let Yung Kuei be appointed to be Grand Chamberlain of the Imperial Household.
- (2) Let Pá-k'ó-tan-pu be transferred to the Senior Vice-Presidency of the

Board of War and let Shou Ying be appointed to be Junior Vice-President of the same Board.

(3) According to the memorial of the Censor Tsun Liang, there is a custom where the men and women of Peking during the middle of the 5th moon (June) flock to sacrifice at the temples and shrines at Nantung, outside the Yungting Gate. During the festivities connected with the occasion, dukes, marquises and the high ministers connected with the Court and various Boards may frequently be seen mixing promiscuously in the throng attired in the ordinary clothes of common people, racing to and fro in carts or on horseback regardless of the lives of others and frequently crushing to death little children. They even go so far as to force the gate-keepers of the Yungting Gate to defer closing it until as late as midnight. If these allegations be true then indeed matters have come to a pretty pass. It is Our pleasure therefore that the Commander-in-Chief of the Peking Gendarmerie and the Censors of the Southern city do hereby order their various subordinates forthwith to put a stop to such actions and in the event of a repetition of them to report for severe punishment the delinquent officials. The officials at the different gates are also to be ordered to attend to their duties in accordance with the regulations that are set down for their guidance and to open or shut the gates at the proper hours.

(4) A Decree appointing a number of officials in the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

INSPECTING THE JEHOL TROOPS.

K'uei Pin, Military Governor of Jehol, reports that he has reviewed the horse and foot battalions garrisoning the Jehol region and finds that the drills have been regularly attended to and that the troops have shown proper proficiency. The target shooting with firearms and arrows all showed a result of eighty per cent of hits. On account of this memorialist gave a certain number of prizes to the most deserving.—*Rescript: Noted.*

TRIAL OF BANNERMEN AND APPROVAL ASKED
FOR THE SENTENCES GIVEN THEM.

Yü-lu, Governor of Fêngtien, reports a case in which Wên Shu, member of the Imperial Clan, the "Red-girdles," (*Gioro*) or members of the collateral branch of the Imperial Clan, Pao Chên and Ching Fu, the Han Chün or Chinese Bannerman Chêng Kuang-ch'uan, and a Chinese named

Wang Chao-ch'ing having set up a gambling house at Lungtszpu, in the department of Hsinmin, and made themselves a general nuisance to the law-abiding portion of the town, were reported to the department magistrate of Hsinmin by the Collector of Lungtszpu named Wên Hua^o. This resulted in the arrest in the first instance of the Chinese Bannerman Chêng Kuang-ch'uan and the Chinese Wang Chao-ch'ing; the breaking up of the gambling den, and the flight of the members of the direct and collateral branches of the Imperial Clan, Wên Shu, Pao Chên and Ching Fu. But Wên Hua^o, the Collector of the walled village of Lungtszpu by so doing brought upon himself the enmity of the gamblers and a plan was agreed upon by them to murder the former, even though the local authorities were on the *qui vive* for their arrest. So one night Gioro Pao Chên, the *Tsung shih* Wên Shu and their accomplices, taking advantage of the darkness, attacked the collector's farm and in the fighting that ensued the collector's brother Wên K'uei received sword-wounds on the back and left arm, which were examined the following day by Ma Tsung-wu, department magistrate of Hsinming and verified by him. This occurred on the 27th day of the 6th intercalary month of last year (19th August 1892) and orders were immediately sent by the Military Secretariat at Moukden to the troops and military police to arrest the would-be murderers. This resulted in the capture only of the Gioro Pao Chên, Wên Shu Ching Fu and an accomplice Tung Shih-ju managing to escape to distant places. As it has been found that it was the captured Gioro Pao Chên who wounded the collector's brother Wên K'uei with a sword, memorialist has sentenced Pao Chên in accordance with the law provided in such cases having reference to members of the collateral branch of the Imperial Clan, viz: to be imprisoned in a solitary cell for the space of two years and six months; bambooded with a large instrument forty blows and to be banished to the nearest penal colony. The Chinese Bannerman Chêng Kuang-ch'uan who is an accomplice and was arrested in the first instance, to be bambooded ninety blows with a large instrument and banished for two years and a half to a distant penal settlement. The Chinese Wang Chao-ch'ing who for the sake of gain rented his houses and grounds for the purpose of gambling, should, according to the law provided for such crimes, be beaten eighty blows with the bamboo and banished for the space of

two years, but as he has since died, in prison, there is no necessity of passing this sentence on him. As for the others that have escaped memorialist has issued instructions for their speedy arrest and when captured will punish them according to the law provided in their case. —*Receipt: Let the proper yamên report thereon.*

17th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Kuei Hêng having memorialised that his leave of absence having expired, and as his illness has not so far been relieved, requests that his post of President of the Board of Punishment be given to some other person and he be allowed indefinite leave of absence to regain his health, Let the President of the Board of Punishments Kuei Hêng have another leave of two months' absence, and let him still retain his post.

(2) The Chief Minister of the Admiralty Board reports that the porcelain and glazed tiles contracted for for the Peking works have been delayed in their delivery and requests that a Decree should be issued ordering the contractors to make haste. As the porcelain and glazed tiles are urgently required for the various works at Peking and the number of tiles that have not yet been delivered is very large, we command that the Board of Works do immediately order the Superintendents of the works concerned to hasten the contractors and bid them to have the entire number of tiles that have been delayed to be at Peking for delivery within the 6th moon (July-August). If the contractors fail to do so let the proper *yamên* memorialise us again upon the matter in order that we may determine the penalty to be accorded.

(3) The Director-Generals (one Manchu and one Chinese) report that between the hours of two and four o'clock on the afternoon of the 14th of June, through the carelessness of those concerned the new granary lettered "Kuang" got on fire, but fortunately being empty it was immediately put out. The memorialists request that the Superintendents of the said granary and the subordinates in charge be sent forthwith to the Board of Punishments and they themselves also turned over to the said Board for a determination of a penalty. Let this be so, and let the Superintendents, the Acting Manchu incumbent P'u Ying and the Chinese incumbent Ts'ai Ying-ts'uen, as well as their subordinates be strictly examined by the Board of Punishments so that the true

causes of the conflagration may be arrived at, and the delinquents punished according to law. And let the above named Superintendents as well as the memorialists Siang Ling and Hsü Ying-k'uei be further turned over to the above-named Board for the determination of a penalty on the ground of improper care of their charges.

THE COURT.

H.I.M. the Emperor after breakfast and the transaction of State affairs to-morrow will enter the Inner Apartments and prepare, by abstention from animal food and pleasures, for the sacrificial worship next day.

MEMORIAL FOR THE PROHIBITION OF A COMMON EVIL.

Shih Tuan, Censor of the Kuangtung Circuit, reports that the men and women of Peking throng together during the month of June to sacrifice at the temples and shrines at Nantung, outside the Yungting gate, and during the processions and festivities race in carts and on horseback to the endangering of human life. To such a degree has this evil grown that often such high persons as dukes, marquises and members of the Court and various Boards may be observed mixing in the common crowd attired in ordinary clothes, emulating the people and overrunning and crushing to death little children in their mad career. The police and soldiers along the roads recognising the high officials and nobility dare not prevent them, and so common people pre-uming on their acquaintance or connection with the high personages mentioned above, ape their manners and defy the guardians of the peace, robbing at pleasure and abducting young women whom these high personages have taken a fancy to. The memorialist has also heard that they even go so far as to make the keepers of the Yungting Gate leave the gates open up to midnight, contrary to all law and order. The memorialist therefore prays that a decree be issued commanding the Captain-General of the Peking Gendarmerie to investigate strictly into the charges and also to order his subordinates to close the city gates at the proper hour. The desire to prohibit a repetition of this common evil is the cause of this memorial.—*Decree previously issued.*

18th June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Fu Yün asks us to order the imprisonment, confiscation of his estates, and punishment of a degraded district magistrate who has been found guilty of making away with

government funds which he has been unable to make good to his successor. With reference to the above, let the degraded Chehsien of Yangsinghsien, Shantung Ts'iao Wei-lin, who in turning over the seals of his acting district magistracy of Hueininghsien to his successor, was found unable to account for large government funds which had been collected by him during his acting incumbency, be forthwith ordered to imprisonment and forced to repay the money. Let also his subordinates be severely questioned and if guilty of complicity let them be also severely punished. Let Fu Yün confiscate whatever property is owned by the said degraded magistrate in his former office and residence at the capital of Shantung, and furthermore let the Governor-General of the Liangkiang provinces act in conjunction with the Governor of Kiangsu in confiscating any property ancestral or otherwise that may be found to belong to the said Ts'iao Wei-lin in his native town: and let the proceeds received from such confiscations be turned over to the Shantung government in order to make good the deficiencies in the accounts of the said degraded official.

CHEKIANG'S QUOTA FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE EXPENSES ARISING FROM THE BUILDING AND ARMING OF THE FORTS AT WEIHAWEI AND TALIANWAN BAY.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chêkiang, reports that in accordance with the instructions he had received from the Admiralty Board through the Northern Superintendent of Trade, Li Hung-chang, that the annual quota of Chêkiang province towards the fund for building and arming the forts at Weihaiwei and Talianwan Bay was Tls. 50,000, which also includes the expenses for maintaining the proper number of troops there, and that this sum was to be provided from the extra Customs' duties on opium, he, the memorialist, had notified the above instructions to the Customs Taotai at Ningpo to that effect, and that the said quota should be regularly paid each year without delay of any sort to the Suikung Treasury and Pay Department of the Peiyang Administration. A despatch, however, has now been received from Wu Ying-sün, Customs Taotai of Ningpo, stating that he had received an intimation from the above-named Pay Department informing him that the Peiyang Administration had contracted with the German firm of Krupp to supply the Northern forts with some heavy guns costing Tls. 200,000, which were to be delivered at Weihaiwei by 1893, and

that the said guns were expected at the said place towards the end of May. Furthermore as the said Pay Department had not enough funds on hand to meet the demand, it was necessary to call upon the Chékiang Administration for its quota in advance. Under the circumstances Wu Ying-sün had complied with the demand and so sent the sum of Tls. 50,000, the quota for this year, to the Tientsin office of the said Pay Department, so as to be in time for the close of the month of May.—*Rescript: Let the proper Yamén take note.*

19th June,

IMPERIAL DECREE.

(1) Let Hsui-t'a-pu and K'un Kang be appointed Examiners of the Horse and Foot Archery competitions of the Banner troops.

(2) Let K'uei Ping go as Overseer of the above named examinations.

THE COURT.

H.I.M. the Emperor will be present to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock at the Chungho Throne Hall for the purpose of granting audiences.

THE FAMINE IN SHANSI.

A long memorial by Chang Hsü, the Governor of Shansi, stating that it is impossible at present to stop providing relief to the famine sufferers in the seven departments outside the Great Wall, belonging to the province of Shansi, and praying that he may be allowed to use the land tax of the province for the purpose, to be paid back in instalments to the government exchequer as occasion offers.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

TIBETAN TRIBUTE TO PEKING.

K'uei Huan, Resident at Tibet, reports that the usual tribute to Peking from the Lama Hutukta, Tai Lung, started from Lhasa on the 14th of March last, under the charge of the Abbot of the Yung-an monastery and five followers, and that he, the memorialist, detailed six soldiers under a sergeant to perform escort duties for the party as far as the Szechuan boundary, from which it will be the duty of the Governor-General of that province to provide the necessary escort and carriers (twenty camels and horses) up to the next province en route, turning the tribute party on to the next Governor, and so on. In view of this, memorialist has already notified the various Viceroys and Governors through whose dominions the tribute-bearing party will have to pass on their way to Peking. The various articles of tribute were personally scrutinised and

examined by the memorialist and found correct.—*Rescript: Let the proper Yamén take note.*

THE TROOPS IN SHANSI AND FENGTIEN.

Two memorials by Yü Lu, Governor-General of Fengtien, and Chang Hsü, Governor of Shansi, reporting upon the efficiency of the Banner and Chinese troops at Moukden and Taiyuanfu respectively during the annual spring review. The target shooting of the troops with gun and rifle showed from eighty to ninety per cent of hits, and the archery of the officers and non-commissioned officers also showed an average of eighty per cent.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War take note.*

20th June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Chang Jen-fu and Li T'ien-lin are appointed Senior and Junior Secretaries of the Supervisorate of Instruction, respectively.

THE COURT.

H.I.M. the Emperor will at six o'clock to-morrow visit the Temple of Earth to perform the necessary sacrifices and then return to the Lakes.

THE NAVAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF FUKIEN.

Yang Ch'i-chên reports that after leaving Peking last March he visited Foochow on the 13th of April and consulted with the Governor-General on matters of importance, after which he went over in a gunboat to Amoy and on the 18th of the same month took over the seals of the Naval Commander-in-Chiefship of Fukien province. As this post is one of chief importance, and the duties exceedingly varied, the memorialist will not venture to act on his own responsibility but on every occasion will consult with the Governor-General T'an Chung-lin. The memorialist intends shortly to go on a cruise and visit all the stations under his jurisdiction.—*Rescript: Noted.*

21st June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let the native of Shantung, Sün Ying-shüan, and the native of Hunan, T'ien Pi-tai, who presented themselves before us at the Palace gates this morning with their petitions be sent to the Board of Punishments and have their cases thoroughly sifted and investigated.

No other news of interest.

22nd June.

Wang Wêng-shao, Governor-General of the Yünkwei provinces, and Sun Fan, Governor of Kueichow, jointly report the attack of a band of insurgent sectaries upon the department city of P'uan in the province of Kueichow, bordering on that of Yunnan. Some time during the beginning of April last, says the report of Tai Fei-chang, acting sub-prefect of the department of P'uan, a stranger by the name of Liu Yên-fei appeared in the villages belonging to that department where, spreading about the tenets of his false doctrines, he managed to gain a number of converts amongst the rustics as well as amongst the Miaotsze aboriginal tribes in the vicinity, the department of P'uan being among the hills and in the Mia-tsze district. Having gained a sufficient number of men, Liu Yên-fei commenced to assume a title to himself and to grant a number of titles to his intimate followers. Upon news of this reaching the memorialists, they immediately sent orders to the civil and military officers near P'uan, as well as to the magistrate of that department, to set about at once to disperse the insurgents. At the same time an order was sent to the Division Commander of the drilled battalions, General Liu Shi-wang, to give every assistance to capture the leaders of this band of insurgent sectaries. Just then memorialist received another report from Tai Fei-chang, magistrate of P'uan, stating that with the assistance of the headman of the Nansing, he had succeeded in arresting the insurgent leader's "Confidential Adviser on Military Affairs" (*Chün-shih*), one Ch'ên Yuan-t'ing, and a Buddhist bonze called Hwei Ming, both of whom had confessed that Liu Yên-fei had collected several thousand converts who were scattered all over the country spreading their strange doctrines with ultimate purposes of rebellion. Upon this, the said magistrate had gone personally about the affected villages in order to stay the discontent and had also warned the adjacent cities to be on the alert. This becoming known to the insurgent chief Liu Yên-fei, he, feeling that his plans had become the property of the authorities, immediately collected his followers, and on the 11th of May raising the standard of revolt in the hill country of Nanli, appeared before the city of P'uan on the 13th of the same month, with the purpose of surprising it. General Liu Shi-wang, having collected every disposable man he could, undertook the defence of P'uan against the insurgents, placing the troops in a cordon around the city for a distance of several miles in order to pre-

vent the insurgents from coming too near P'uan. At daybreak of the 13th of May the insurgents attacked P'uan in four divisions and were met by the troops. Both sides lost a number of men in the battles that ensued. At 10 o'clock the same night the insurgents made a night attack at the West gate, setting fire to the suburbs in order to create greater confusion and fear in the minds of the defenders, and then setting scaling ladders to the walls attempted to mount into the city. But they were gallantly repelled by Majors Tsêng Kuang-shêng and Li Yên-yi and the insurgents having lost a number of their chief men were compelled to retreat as day was beginning to break. On the next day, the 14th of May, the insurgents concentrated their whole efforts on the south-east walls of the city. Here a battle raged from 9 o'clock in the morning to past noon, both sides losing a great number of men, until volunteer bands from the neighbouring towns appearing on the scene in the afternoon, the insurgents commenced a retreat, which soon became a flight as the besieged joined the relieving troops in chasing the enemy. Two lieutenants of the insurgent Liu Yên-fei were here captured, one a Chinese and one a Miaotsze, as well as 134 of the insurgents, the enemy losing besides over 300 men in killed in the fight and ensuing flight as well as an untold number of flags, spears, guns and swords. The enemy then retreated into the mountain fastnesses where they are now being confronted by the troops in order to prevent them from coming down again. The above is a true account of what took place at P'uan, and considering that the city was nearly surprised owing to insufficiency of forces on hand at the time, memorialists think that the actions of the civil and military officials concerned deserve great praise in being able to repulse the enemy and killing such a number of them and finally to drive a much superior force into the hill and mountain fastnesses of the Miaotsze country. As the chief of the insurgent band is still at large with a very considerable force, he is still a source of danger to the peace of the country and memorialists have given orders to all the civil and military officials round about to be on the alert and consider means to wipe the rebel band out.—*Rescript: Let the rebel Liu Yên-fei and his associates be forthwith captured and do not let any of them escape from the net of the law.*

THE TROOPS AND DEFENCES OF FORMOSA
AND THEIR EXPENSES.

Shao Yü-lien, Governor of Formosa, forwards the report of the expenses incurred

in maintaining the troops and defences of the island of Formosa, commencing with the 1st moon and ending with the 12th moon of the 17th year of the reign of Kuang Hsü (February 1891 to January 1892.) By previous regulations and up to the end of 1890, the troops garrisoning the island of Formosa numbered thirty-one battalions, seventeen independent companies, five companies of military colonists on the borders of Savageland, five batteries of artillery and three battalions of the "Lien" army corps, the others being detached portions of the army of the Huai. But owing to the isolated position of the island which in time of war would be cut off from the mainland, it was decided to increase the fighting forces of the island, especially since the rising in 1891 of the savage tribes of Tokoham. For this purpose four more battalions were raised, bringing up the fighting forces to thirty-five full battalions, seventeen independent companies, five companies of military colonists garrisoning Savageland, five batteries artillery and three battalions belonging to the "Lien" army corps, the rest being composed of detached portions from the army of the Huai. According to the report of the Board of Re-organisation for the island of Formosa the revenues for the maintenance of the above named troops as well as forts and navy have been found to be inadequate. The portions from the Formosan Customs, salt revenue and ordinary likin, set aside to pay these troops came (up to the end of 1892) to Tls. 1,554,619 odd, while the actual sums to be disbursed amounted to Tls. 1,946,536 odd, thus leaving a deficit of Tls. 391,916, odd, adding to which the deficit of 1890 of Tls. 86,140 odd, have brought the whole amount that should be owing to the troops of Tls. 478,516 odd, which has been made up by borrowing from the other portions of the revenue. As soon, however, as the revenue of the twelve months 1892-93 shall have been collected the memorialist intends to return the borrowed sums to the general exchequer, and now prays His Majesty to give the necessary instructions to the Boards of Revenue, War and Works, a detailed account of which accompanies this memorial.

—*Receipt: Let the yaméus concerned take note and report thereon.*

23rd June.

COMPLETION OF THE PERIOD OF MOURNING OF THE EARL OF WEI-YI AND HIS DESIRE TO ENTER OFFICIAL LIFE.

Wu Ts-chêng, an Officer of the Premier rank and Governor of Hunan, reports that

he has received an intimation from Tsêng Kuang-han, successor to an Earldom of the first order, and now expectant Assistant Under-Secretary of a Board, to the effect that he is a native of the district of Hsiang-shianghsien, province of Hunan, aged twenty-four. In 1886 he succeeded in obtaining the degree of Licentiate under the Literary Chancellor of Hunan, Lu Pao-chung, and in May 1890, in accordance with the Edict of February 1890 to the Board of Civil Appointments ordering the said Board to obtain the literary standing and antecedents of the sons and grandsons of such high officers as the Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang and others, obtained the official rank of an expectant Assistant Under Secretary of a Board. The reason for this being that Tsêng Kuang-han, who through the death at an early age of his own father, had become the lineal heir to the Earldom of Wei-yi, vacated by the death in December 1890 of his grandsire Tsêng Kuo-ch'uan at Nanking, and who by an Edict twelve days later was ordered to succeed to the said title. As direct heir in succession the said Tsêng Kuang-han was bound to retire for the full period of mourning of twenty-seven months, which expired on the 18th of February last. Having made the above intimation through the district magistrate, of Hsiang-shiang to the memorialist, with further notice that the said Tsêng Kuang-han, Earl of Wei-yi, intended to start from his home on the 2nd of June for Peking for an audience and also to take the duties of an expectant Assistant Under Secretary of a Board, the memorialist hastens to notify the Throne of the circumstances of the request by the said Earl of Wei-yi.

—*Receipt: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

DECREE ASKED FOR THE IMPRISONMENT OF A DEFAULTING DISTRICT MAGISTRATE TO ENFORCE PAYMENT OF SUMS OWING BY HIM.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, with the Brevet rank of a President of a Board, reports that the district magistrate of Yangsing, Ts'iao Wei-lin, while turning over the seals of the acting district magistracy of Hueiminhsien failed to account for various government sums amounting to a total of over Tls. 8,700, for which delinquency he had first degraded the said official. But the said Ts'iao Wei-lin having shown a disposition to keep the said sums by subterfuges and open defiance, memorialist now requests that an Edict be promulgated to imprison the said official as well as his

subordinates in order to get at the bottom of the delinquencies, and that the Governor-general of the Liangkiang provinces and the Governor of Kiangsu be ordered to find out whether the said delinquent has any property at Yangchow, his native town.—*Decree already published.*

CONTRIBUTION OF RICE FROM HUNAN
TO SHANSI.

A Postscript memorial by Wu Ta-ch'eng, Governor of Hunan, to the effect that in obedience to the Imperial commands that the Hunan tribute rice for 1893 be sold and the money obtained therefrom be forthwith sent to Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of Chihli, who has charge of the famine contributions for Shansi, the memorialist sent the expectant Taotai Ch'ên Yün-yi with the rice amounting to 65,000 piculs, which as usual is bought yearly from the provinces of Kiangsu and Anhui for transportation to Peking. But the said Taotai has petitioned that on arrival at Shanghai he found that if the rice in question were sold a considerable loss would be the result and recommended that the rice instead of being sold should be sent as it was to Shansi. In the meanwhile a despatch from Li Hung-chang states that as relief is urgently wanted in Shansi, he had taken upon himself to advance from the famine funds in hand Tls. 40,000 in the name of the Hunan tribute rice, and asking that this sum be made good by the sale of the said rice. The memorialist, therefore, under the circumstance was compelled to consult with the said expectant Taotai and the Grand Commissioner of Hunan by which it was decided to raise Tls. 40,000 through other sources to return Li Hung-chang, and that this amount be made good from the tribute rice of 1894, while that of this year be sent as usual to the granaries at T'ungchow.—*Rescript: Let it be so, and let the Board of Revenue take note.*

24th June.

SURVEYING A NEW DEPARTMENT IN THE
HEILUNGCHIANG REGION.

E-k'ò-t'ang-a, Military Governor of Heilungchiang (Amur region) reports that owing to the unsatisfactory surveying of the new sub-prefectural department of Payensusu, under his jurisdiction, last year, he intends to go in person not only to verify but hasten on the work of defining the limits of this new department, and that he has set down the 10th of June to start from Tsitsihar for the purpose.—*Rescript: Noted.*

25th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let Hua Chin-shou go as Literary Chancellor of Shantung.

(2) Let Ku Huang and Wu Yü-seng go as Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Kuangtung, respectively.

(3) Let Chang Hang-chia and Lao Ts'ao-Kuang go as Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Kuangsi, respectively.

(4) Let Lung Tsan-ling and Tu Pên-ch'ung go as Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Fukien, respectively.

(5) A decree appointing a number of officials to various posts in the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

MONEY FOR THE MILITARY CHEST OF
KUEICHOW.

Sung Fan, Governor of Kueichow, reports that he has received the following sums as contributions from various provinces to the military exchequer of Kueichow province for the second month of the present year. (March 1893.)

	Tls.
Szechuan: Salt Revenue.....	30,500
Kiangsu: Shanghai Foreign Customs and Likin	3,250

Total...33,750

Rescript:—Let the Board of Revenue take note.

THE LIKIN RECEIPTS OF KUANGSI.

Huang Huai-sh'eng, Provincial Treasurer and Acting Governor of Kuangsi, reports that for the year 1892 there were collected throughout the whole province, at the likin stations attached to the cities of Kueilin, P'ingloh, Wuchow, Yülin, Hsinchow, Liuchow, Ch'ingyuan, Nanning and S'üch'ên, likin taxes amounting to an aggregate sum of Tls. 585,471, odd, all of which was expended in the payment of the officers and troops of the province for the year under review. In addition to the regular likin above-named there were collected ordinary taxes amounting to Tls. 46,387, odd, which memorialist has according to precedent disbursed to pay the salaries and wages of the officials and excisemen connected with the likin stations above named, including sundry items of an ordinary nature. The papers and vouchers connected with the above-mentioned receipts were all verified by the memorialist himself and he now reports the matter to the Throne and asks for approval.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

26th June.

REWARDS ASKED FOR FAMINE FUND
CONTRIBUTORS.

The Grand Secretary, Earl of Shuh-yi and Viceroy of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, ask for a number of rewards, such as promotions and the like, for certain officials, natives of Szechuan and Formosa, who contributed last year large sums of money in aid of the sufferers from the floods in the metropolitan prefecture of Shuntien-fu and the province of Chihli.—*excerpt: Referred to the Board of Civil Appointments.*

No other memorials of interest.

27th June.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

From the commencement of the spring of this year to the approach of summer the metropolitan prefecture was blessed with sweet and refreshing showers. Following this, however, the rains became incessant and in such a measure that we prayed with earnest sincerity for a cessation of the disastrous days, and our prayers were answered by serene weather which seemed to give tokens of a bountiful autumn harvest. But, unfortunately, the heavens have been recently darkened with thick masses of clouds followed by overwhelming rains, so that we greatly fear the wheat and crops that now cover the country will suffer much harm therefrom. Hence it is needful that earnest prayers should again be offered up by us on behalf of the husbandman and we now announce our intention to proceed on the 29th instant to the Temple of the Most High there to sacrifice and burn incense and pray for the return of the proper seasons, in order to gladden and comfort the hearts and hopes of our husbandmen.

INSPECTING THE TROOPS GUARDING THE
FRONTIERS ALONG THE AMUR AND
USSURI RIVERS.

E-k'ò-t'ang-a, Military Governor at Tsitsihar, states that it is the duty of his post, as soon as navigation opens in the rivers within his jurisdiction to proceed personally to inspect the troops guarding the banks of the Muho (Amur ?) and Heilungchiang (Ussuri ?) rivers, especially the troops on the upper portion of the latter river. But having now obtained the Imperial consent to send a deputy to take his place after he (memorialist) shall have returned to Tsitsihar from inspecting the other troops within his command, he has now decided to send for that purpose Banner Captain Té-kò-têng-a, Assistant Military Secretary, a man of sober, steady and careful habits, and thoroughly to be de-

pended upon, to inspect the land battalions guarding the banks of the Muho and Heilungchiang rivers, as well as the newly established *K'orun* or frontier posts in those regions. As for memorialist himself, he intends to go personally to review the naval forces of those two rivers and will memorialise the date of his starting from Tsitsihar for the purpose.—*Rescript: Noted.*

28th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) As the post of Prefect of Canton is one of prime importance, let the Viceroy and Governor of that province give it to the prefect they think most capable out of the whole province, and let Chou K'ai-ming be appointed to the prefecture thus left vacant by the officer of their choice.

(2) Let the Board of Civil Appointments report on the memorial of the Censor Chang Chung-hsing who accuses the magistrates of the "Five Cities" (Peking) of reckless recommendations for rewards with reference to the gentry connected with the five departments of the capital.

(3) The same Censor (Chang Chung-hsing) states that at the recent Palace examinations of candidates desirous of being appointed to the Literary Chancellorships in the provinces, as many as a dozen or fifteen of them continued the work on their theses by the aid of candle light, up to to midnight, and the memorialist requests a decree enjoining strict impartiality and watchfulness on the part of those concerned with the charge of such examinations. As it is strictly prohibited to use lights in the usual examination halls so much more strict should the rule be in the Palace examinations. Matters have come to a pretty pass indeed, if the charges made by the said Censor be true! It is our strict command, therefore, that in the future, the Princes and High Ministers of the Court, having charge of the Palace examinations, should be enjoined to exercise strict and earnest vigilance in their duties in order to prevent a recurrence of such violation of the rules and regulations that obtain in such cases.

THE COURT.

H.I.M. the Emperor, will proceed to-morrow morning precisely at 8 o'clock to the Temple of the Most High to offer sacrifices.

THE TRIBUTE GRAIN FLEET PASSING UP
THE GRAND CANAL.

Hsü Chêng-wei, an officer of the Premier buton, and Director-General of the Grand

Canal, reports that he has received a despatch from the Director-General of Grain Transport to the effect that he is sending up the Grand Canal, deducting the rice for the famine funds, five squadrons of boats carrying the tribute rice of Kiangpèh, amounting to 69,000 odd piculs and eight squadrons of boats carrying the tribute rice of Kiangsu amounting to 105,700 odd piculs, and that the two divisions will go up the Canal in one long line. On receipt of this intelligence memorialist immediately ordered every preparation to be made for the safe passage of the tribute grain boats through the Canal, with strict instructions to the lock-keepers to regulate the flow of water into the various locks so as to maintain a uniform depth. Since then memorialist has received a despatch from the Canal Intendant to the effect that the first squadron of Kiangpèh grain boats consisting of fifty-three boats entered Shantung territory on the 29th of May last at 8 o'clock in the evening and that the other squadrons followed closely in the wake of the first. As the tribute grain fleets have now passed into the jurisdiction of the Governor of Shantung, memorialist has notified that official of the fact, passing the responsibility of their safety to him.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

29th June.

ADDITIONAL GUARDS AT JEHOL.

Lí Hung-chang reports that since the disturbances at Chaoyang last year in which the Jehol district also suffered he has decided to place an extra force of drilled cavalry in the latter place, which he has withdrawn from the immediate command of the Commander-in-Chief at Kup'ebk'ou (old entrance of Great Wall) and now placed under the control of the military governor at Jehol. The pay of the cavalry in question will be given through the usual source.—*Rescript: Let it be so, and let the proper Board also take note.*

No other news of interest.

30th June.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let Yang Ju be appointed Sub-Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship.

(2) Sundry appointments of officers belonging to the Imperial Guards.

(3) We are grieved to hear of the death of Shên Yuan-shên, late Literary Chancellor of Fukien. He was a good officer and from the time he first entered public life as a secretary in the Grand Council,

he has deserved every step in promotion. Let him receive the State grant usually awarded to a Vice-President of a Board and let any faults recorded against him be wiped off from the State records. Let the proper Board, moreover, report the amount of grant that should be given to the deceased.

DEATH OF A LITERARY CHANCELLOR AT HIS POST.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, states that he has received despatches from the Prefect and District Magistrate of Yénchowfu to the effect that while attending to the duties of his post examining the licentiate candidates of Yénchowfu, Ts'in Shu-ts'üen, Literary Chancellor of Shantung, was suddenly taken away on the 19th of June. As the candidates belonging to the prefecture of Tsinan, T'ai'an, Wut'ing, Ichow, Têngchow and Laichow have still to be examined, it is important that His Majesty should speedily appoint a successor to the late Ts'in Shu-ts'üen, in order that there may be no hitch, so far as would-be licentiates are concerned, when the provincial examinations appointed by special Act of Grace, take place at Tsinanfu in the autumn.—*Rescript: Let Hua Chin-shou proceed forthwith to Shantung as Literary Chancellor.*

1st July.

DISHONEST SALE OF RANK AT PEKING.

Chang Chung-hsing, Censor of the Chiangnan circuit at Peking, complains of the dishonest way in which the gentry and magistrates within the five cities of Peking take the occasion when they are permitted by law to recommend for promotion, not those whose exertions have entitled them to higher steps in rank, but such outsiders as pay sums of money, for the benefits accorded by such occasions. When the said Censor made enquiries, the magistrates of the five cities tried to lay the blame on the officers of the Peking Gendarmerie and *vice versa*. The Censor also wishes to know where all this money that has been obtained during the past years by the sale of rank has gone to; whether it has been paid into the public exchequer, or whether it has gone to enrich the dishonest officials concerned in the disgraceful proceedings. The memorialist therefore prays for the sake of the good government of the capital that the Throne should promulgate a decree commanding the necessary investigations to be made.—*Decree already published.*

BUILDING GRANARIES BY PUBLIC
SUBSCRIPTION.

Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Liang Kuang provinces, reports that owing to the insufficiency of the native produce of cereals in the province of Kuangtung, for domestic use, it has often been a matter of grave concern to the authorities what to do if some untoward circumstance should occur by which the province should be suddenly cut off from outside aid in the way of imports of rice. Fortunately for the province some patriotic citizens of Kuangtung have made a commencement in dealing with the question, and having contributed amongst themselves sums amounting to nearly Tls. 30,000, have already succeeded as a first step to greater things in building a large granary of twelve divisions capable of containing 15,600 piculs of rice which the persons in question have also obtained and placed in the new granary. Such patriotism is surely worthy of recognition from the Imperial Throne and memorialist therefore suggests that the patriotic gentry concerned should all be given higher personal rank or such mark of Imperial recognition as they themselves might desire.—*Rescript: Let Ch'ên Kuo-fên be informed of our admiration of his patriotism and loyalty and let it be as asked for as regards the others. Furthermore let the prop: Board also take note.*

2nd July.

DECAPITATION OF A DISBANDED SOLDIER.

Shên Ping-ch'êng, Governor of Anhui, reports that a certain disbanded brave from Shantung, named Wu Nêng-ch'i, having been found guilty of robbery, was decapitated by his order, before asking for Imperial approval, owing to the seriousness of the affair. According to the report of Ch'ên Chao-ch'ing, district magistrate of Hsiench'êng—the scene of the robbery—the said Wu Nêng-ch'i was a native of Hofei-hsien, and formerly a soldier in one of the battalions stationed at Shantung. Last year, having served his time, he returned to his native province, but having nothing to do was often in sad straits. Some time during the month of June last year the soldier, Wu Nêng-ch'i, met some of his friends by the name of Li Lao-wo-tsz, Li Ta and Li Erh and it turning out from conversation and a mutual relation of their circumstances that they were all pretty hard pushed for a living, the said Wu Nêng-ch'i suggested that they should band together and rob the house of a certain well-to-do cloth merchant named T'ang Yü-ti, living inside the city of Hsiench'êng.

This being agreed upon by every one of the party, it was arranged that the party should meet on a deserted plot of ground not far from T'ang Yü-ti's house, on the night of the 28th of June, 1892. On that night Wu Nêng-ch'i arrived on the spot armed with a musket, Li Lao-wo-tsz with a short sword, Li Ta with a bamboo club and Li Erh with paper tapers dipped in oil for lighting the party during their depredation. They then proceeded in the order named to the house of T'ang Yü-ti, and Wu Nêng-ch'i forced open the gate with a big stone. Li Erh was then told to light up his taper and the whole party rushed into T'ang Yü-ti's house. As the party of four broke into the sleeping apartment, T'ang Yü-ti, his brother T'ang Yü-pang and his son T'ang E-ching being suddenly aroused from sleep began to cry out an alarm. Upon this Wu Nêng-ch'i fired his gun and wounded T'ang Yü-pang on the left side while Li Lao-wo-tsz cut the son T'ang E-ching down on the right shoulder with his sword. This silenced the inmates, and the robbers commenced to ransack the apartments for clothes and bundles of cloth which being divided they rushed out of the house. T'ang Yü-ti then gave the alarm at the *Paochiachü* or "Department of Public Safety," whereupon the soldiers and runners connected with the Department immediately gave chase. Wu Nêng-ch'i, probably being more heavily-laden than the other three, was captured with his spoil on his person and forthwith lodged in the Chehsien's *yamén*. As the case of a disbanded soldier's turning robber is one of a serious nature the affair was reported at once by the district magistrate in question, Ch'ên Chao-ch'ing, to the memorialist, who at once deputed the prefect of Ningkuofu, Li Ch'ên-ngao, to re-examine the case and report, with the result already reported by the above-named district magistrate. The other three men, Li Lao-wo-tsz, Li Ta and Li Erh are still at large; but according to a decree of 1887, in cases of importance where a man appears at a house for the purpose of robbery, whether he hurts anyone of the inmates or not, such person or persons are to be decapitated forthwith. As Wu Nêng-ch'i appeared at the house of T'ang Yü-ti armed with a musket and succeeded in wounding T'ang Yü-pang, the brother, although the latter has recovered from his wound, still his case fits the decree of 1887, and hence, by order of memorialist, Wu Nêng-ch'i was accordingly decapitated as soon as his case was verified by memorialist after the re-examination by the prefect of

Ningkuofu. It now remains to award the same fate to Li Lao-wo-tsz who used his sword on the son T'ang E-ching. The spoils and musket captured from the person of Wu Nêg-ch'i have first been returned to the sufferer, T'ang Yü-ti, and the latter put into the storehouse of the prefect's *yamên*. As only one of the four concerned in the robbery has so far been captured, and the other three are yet at large, the magistrate of the town is guilty of culpable negligence, and hence it is necessary that his case be reported to the Throne for the determination of a penalty.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.*

3rd July.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let Hui Chang be appointed Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat with the brevet rank of a Vice-President of the Board of Rites.

INSPECTION OF THE KIANGSI LAND AND WATER FORCES.

Fang Ju-yi, Provincial Treasurer and Acting Governor of Kiangsi, reports that according to the fixed regulations that the Admiral of the Yangtze should make his headquarters half the year in the provinces bordering the upper banks of the Yangtze river and half the year in the lower, in order to enable that officer to inspect the forces guarding the banks of this great river, Huang Yi-shêng, Admiral of the Yangtse, arrived on the 26th of May last at Huk'ou from Huayang, near Nganking, the capital of Anhui, and at once inspected the land water forces stationed at Huk'ouhsien. He then went on to Wuch'êng and Jaochow on the Poyang Lake, and there inspected the troops stationed in the two cities mentioned above. On the 4th of June Admiral Huang arrived at Nanch'angfu, the capital of Kiangsi, and called upon the memorialist on business concerning the troops and defences connected with the province. On the next day, the 5th, the said Admiral again went to the upper banks of the Yangtze where he intends to inspect the troops and defences in detail. As he has finished inspecting the defences and troops of the memorialist's province, it is the duty of the memorialist to report the same to the Throne which he now does with the consent of the said Admiral Huang Yi-shêng.—*Rescript: Noted.*

4th July.

THE NEW PREFECT OF CH'AOCHOUFU.

Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Liang-kuang, reports that he has appointed a trustworthy man in the person of the

expectant prefect Fang Kung-hui to be the acting prefect of Ch'aochoufu (Swatow) vice Yang Tsi, the incumbent, who asks leave to vacate his post on the ground of sickness. Memorialist has accordingly allowed the said Yang Tsi to return to his Banner at Peking, and in accordance with the recommendations of the acting Provincial Treasurer, Lo Ch'êng-yün and the Provincial Judge Ngôh-latsing-a, ordered the said Fang Kung-hui to go to Ch'aochoufu as acting prefect, pending further instructions from the Throne.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

A GAOLER AND HIS PRISONERS.

Tò Ming, Military Lieutenant-Governor, and Chih Shêng-a, Deputy Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, jointly memorialise about the disgraceful conduct of a gaolwarden who lets out his prisoners for the special purpose of stealing for his own benefit. According to the report of the Comptroller-General of the Bordered Yellow Bannermen of Ch'ahar (Mongol nomad herdsmen) Puyenteleko'rh, a Lieutenant of the Guards, Arpe'rhimed, who had been appointed gaolwarden of Ch'ahar, has been accused of sending away the soldiers on guard at the prison and setting his prisoners free to steal for him, and when accused of doing so by the soldiers in question had bribed them to silence. His accuser, Puyents'ulahan, a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Guards at Ch'ahar, states that a Lama priest No'rhu had complained to him that he (the priest) had lost on the night of the 28th of October, 1892, a chestnut-coloured milch cow whose hide he had afterwards recognised in the possession of a countryman named Abtsingtai. This man had confessed that he had exchanged goods for the hide from the hands of the prison soldiers Urd'u and Nasud'u. As this was a serious charge and implicated an officer in the crime of abetting prisoners to steal, the memorialist determined to go into the root of the charges and accordingly deputed the above named Comptroller-General and the Judicial Commissary of Ch'ahar to investigate thoroughly into the truth of the whole matter. The following is their report: The accused Gaolwarden, Lieutenant Arpe'rhimed, evinced obstinacy and defiance when questioned and would not tell the truth; but the soldiers on guard at the time of the theft (28th October 1892) viz. Urd'u, Nasud'u and Saitsi'rhu, acknowledged that on that night a prisoner named Sewantu'rhtsi, had been set at liberty and took advantage of it to steal the chestnut-

coloured cow of the Lama priest No'rhp'u. Moreover that the said prisoner had brought the said cow which he managed to kill and skin, dividing the meat between himself and the Gaolwarden. The soldiers on finding out the particulars of the theft that night intended to report the case at once to the Lieutenant-Colonel in command, but the Gaolwarden Arpe'rhméd gave them each a horse and a tobacco pipe, telling them to keep quiet about it. Eventually they (the soldiers) sold the hide to a countryman named Ahtsingtai. According to the record of the prisoner Sewantu'rhtsi he was imprisoned on a charge of horse-stealing from the stables of a Guardsman named Tanpasulun. The prisoner has now also confessed his second crime and the name of his instigator. Although the charge is strenuously and obstinately denied by the culprit warden Arpe'rhméd, yet the evidence is too strong against him to clear him of the charges abovenamed. The memorialists have therefore forthwith degraded Arpe'rhméd of his rank and removed him from office for his disgraceful and culpable conduct and as a warning to all officials. This is in accordance with the law applying to members of the various Manchu Banners.—*Rescript: Let it be so and let the Board of War take note.*

5th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

- (1) Let Huang Shao-ti and T'sing Sui-chang go as Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Hunan, respectively.
- (2) Let Chu Ch'eng and Hsü Jên-chu go as Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Szechuan, respectively.
- (3) Let Ch'eng Yu-lin and Sié Pié-hsien go as Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Kansu, respectively.

6th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

- (1) Decree allowing certain officials of Kiangsu memorialised by the Governor K'uei Chün as useless, unfit, or avaricious, to be degraded and dismissed from office.
- (2) Decree commanding K'uei Chün, Governor of Kiangsu, in consideration of his memorial, to inform certain officials of that province of the Imperial approbation regarding the energetic and upright way in which they have undertaken the duties of their several offices. Amongst the number is Huang Ch'eng-hsien, district magistrate of Shanghai.
- (3) Let K'uei Yuan be appointed Chief Commissioner of Grain Transport for the province of Kuangtung.

(4) Let Chi Chih-wên be appointed Prefect of Yaochowfu, Szechuan.

(5) As the post of Prefect of Soochow is one of prime importance, let the high authorities of Kiangsu choose the man they think most worthy of the post and let the post vacated by the man of their choice be given to Yèn-Sui.

INSPECTION OF TROOPS IN KANSU.

Yang Ch'ang-tsün, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, an officer of the Premier bulton, and Governor-General of the Shên-Kan provinces, reports that in obedience to the Imperial commands he started on the 11th of April last from Lanchowfu, the capital of Kansu, for a military tour of inspection over the prefectures of Kanchow, Liangchow, Shuhchow and Sining. He arrived on the 14th of the same month at the city of P'ingfanch'ên and on the 18th having arrived at Liangchow inspected the Manchu troops of that city. He found the Bannermen one and all thoroughly well-drilled in all respects, whether in the tactics of attack and retreat or in independent and volley firing. The cavalry showed proficiency in firing at targets both with carbine and bow, and the jingal-shooting was very good. The spear and pike drill also showed that the men had been well trained, and on the whole memorialist is well-satisfied with the thoroughness shown by the Manchu garrison of Kanchow. The Kanchow, Shuhchow and Sining troops all showed different degrees of proficiency, and on the 5th June memorialist began his return journey from Sining to Lanchow which he reached on the 11th of the same month.—*Rescript: Noted.*

7th July.

HOGS' BRISTLES FOR PEKING.

Liu K'un-yi, Governor-general of the Liangkiang provinces, reports that in accordance with despatches he has received from the Board of Works, requesting him to forward 200,000 catties of hogs' bristles to Peking, he is now sending the first instalment of 50,000 catties which, according to the report of Tê Shou, Provincial Treasurer of Anhui, were obtained from the provinces of Kiangsi and Hupeh at the rate of three candareens per catty, or at a total of Tls. 1,500. To this must be added Tls. 1,800 odd freightage to Peking, both of which sums will be paid for out of the funds in the Anhui Treasury. The other three instalments of 50,000 catties each will be sent as soon as they have been collected.—*Rescript: Let the Board concerned take note.*

THE FORCES OF KIANGSU.

The same high official gives a summary of the land and water forces under his immediate command belonging to the province of Kiangsu for the year ending the 17th of the reign of Kuang Hsü (1891-92). For the year there were belonging to the Governor-General's command at Kiangning, the Brigadier-Generalships of Langshan and Hsüchow, according to the old basis seventeen battalions. In addition to these there were the battalions belonging to the new basis, viz.: three extra battalions at Langshan; one battalion whose special duty is to deepen canals and creeks; the battalions belonging to the sea-going fleet; and the inland naval battalions of South T'ungchow, Huaian and Yangchow aggregating fourteen battalions, which with the battalions of the old basis totals thirty-one battalions amounting to 12,826 men, not including fifty-five clerks and secretaries. Besides this there were 506 government courier horses and 36 baggage boats, and also 1,233 horses used by the officers for drilling purposes. The troops belonging to the Military Commander-in-Chief of Kiangsu at Soochow and Fushan amounted according to the old basis to fifteen battalions, which added to the troops belonging to the Governor of Kiangsu's immediate command, the T'aihu lake, the Northern Sung and Southern Sung, and the Nanhui, Woosung and Ch'uansha commands, land and naval forces, amount to a total of thirty battalions, containing in all to 8,941 men, not including 268 clerks and secretaries. For transport there were 398 horses and 169 boats, besides 576 horses used for drilling purposes.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War take note.*

8th July.

No news of interest.

9th July.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Appointing a number of officials to the Provincial and Metropolitan administrations.

REPORT ON THE TORPEDO GODOWNS AND DRY DOCKS OF KUANGTUNG.

Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Liangkuang provinces, makes the following report. Owing to the determination to provide for the seacoast defences of Canton in 1883, the predecessor of the memorialist

arranged with the then Minister to Germany, Li Fêng-pao, to purchase a number of torpedoes and torpedo boats for placing at such important points as Humèn (Bocca Tigris), Shalu, and Yüchu, and also to purchase foreign torpedoes and cables to be sunk in deep water for defending the port. The said Minister was also requested to engage foreign instructors who were to build places of instruction at Huangpu for students and a corps of sailors and officers. The said instructors arrived and manifested great earnestness in their duties, preparing their men for times of emergency. All this has already been at various times reported to the Throne and placed on record at the proper Boards at Peking. But torpedoes and torpedo boats are very expensive things and their varieties brought from foreign countries are innumerable; but as a rule they are made of steel. It was therefore desirable that dry docks, boat platforms and torpedo godowns should be built, according to the Peiyang scheme, for the purpose of putting such expensive things in places of safety, and thus obviating the contingency of their rusting and spoiling by being too long in the water. Such care as frequent scraping and oiling and varnishing these instruments of destruction is but temporary. There being no funds on hand to build the godown and dry docks at the time, and the students and men being now thoroughly acquainted with their drills, it was necessary that land should be bought to build godowns, dry docks and boat platforms. All this has been done and two platforms have been built, the first having four steel rails on which to place nine torpedo boats—the other two torpedo boats being still afloat for the purpose of daily drill and instruction. The second platform has two steel rails by which the boats on land can be changed around and launched into the water whenever desired. Around these platforms domiciles and kitchens for the students, sailors and officers have been built. Seven godowns have been built for placing materials to build boats and platforms, etc. In addition to these there are one large godown for depositing fish torpedoes and two minor ones in the rear for depositing torpedo caps, gun cotton, and the like. A bridge and a pair of shears for landing or launching the torpedoes have also been built, costing an aggregate of Tls. 29,883 odd. All were built in the foreign style under the superintendence of the Expectant Taotai Wên Tze-shao and occupied eighteen months and twenty-eight days.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.*

10th July.

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE AMUR GOLD MINES
TO THE HEILUNGCHIANG MILITARY
EXCHEQUER.

E-k'ô-tang-a, Military Governor of the Heilungchiang region, reports that according to the understanding previously arrived at with reference to the annual contribution of the Muho gold mines within his jurisdiction to the military expenses of Heilungchiang, he has received from the manager of the said mines, the expectant Taotai Yuan Ta-hua, the sum of Tls. 33,000, which is the contribution for the three years 1889, 1890 and 1891, or six-twentieths of the whole gains of the three years named above, after deducting expenses.—*Rescript*: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

SENTENCE ON A MANCHU EX-OFFICIAL, FOUND
GUILTY OF MURDER AT NANKING.

K'uei Tsün, an officer of the Premier button and Governor of Kiangsu, reports the sentence he has given according to law upon an already degraded Bannerman for kicking to death a fellow-being. According to the report of the district magistrate of Shangyuan, Nanking, the Bannerman Wên Yü on the 1st September 1891 while having an altercation with the degraded Brigadier-General Jung Ta-ping kicked the latter's wife who had come out to help her husband. She fell down on receiving the kick and in falling fatally injured herself internally, resulting in death the next day. This being reported to the Governor-General Liu K'un-yi and the then Governor of Kiangsu, Kang Yi, predecessor of the memorialist, these two high officials asked permission of the Throne to first degrade the said Wên Yü, the murderer, and the said Brigadier-general Jung Ta-ping, in order that the proper steps might be taken to try the men as common citizens unhampered by official rank. The permission being granted, and the Board of War notified of the fact, the case was then regularly proceeded with by the prefect of Kiangning, Li T'ing-hsiao, in conjunction with the Commissary of the Manchu garrison of Kiangning, Hsing K'uei, and the following facts were elicited which were reported to C'hên T'i, Provincial Judge of Kiangsu, and eventually verified by the memorialist who went through the case personally. It appears that the prisoner, the said Wên Yü, is a member of the Red Manchu Banner and had, prior to coming to Nanking, been a *bifkeshi* or Banner Official Writer in the Board of Rites, from which post he had been

degraded for misdemeanours in gambling operations at Peking, beaten sixty blows with a large bamboo and then banished to the post roads for a year. On his way back, after banishment, to Peking he had come by way of Ningkuofu, Anhui, and stopped at Nanking hoping to get some work to do there if possible. He lodged at Wang Kung-ssü temple within the Shangyuan district and had for neighbours the ex-expectant Brigadier-General Jung Ta-ping and his wife. It also appeared from the evidence that the wife of the ex-Brigadier-General, Jung Ta-ping, had been long ailing from asthmatic symptoms and consequently was very weak and delicate in health. On the 1st of September, 1891, a small boy happened to fly some pigeons which afterwards alighted upon the roof of the prisoner Wên Yü's apartments, whereupon the small boy commenced to throw stones at the pigeons in order to make them fly off. Wên Yü, fearing that this promiscuous throwing of stones would harm some one, came out and attempted to stop the boy who, however, resented the interference. Wên Yü then went up and taking away the stones from the boy commenced to beat him for his insolence in using bad language to him (Wên Yü). Hereupon the boy began to cry and just then the ex-Brigadier-General Jung Ta-ping coming up tried to remonstrate with Wên Yü, advising him to desist from further beating the small boy. At this Wên Yü turned his anger against Jung Ta-ping and taking him unawares knocked the latter down with a stone at the same time catching hold of him by the queue. Jung Ta-ping having got some wounds on the forehead by this attack kept to the ground, although, finding that he had drawn blood from his antagonist, Wên Yü had by this time loosened his hold of Jung Ta-ping. Attracted by the tumult Jung Chang-shih, the wife of Jung Ta-ping, hurried out of her house and finding her husband on the ground in a bloody condition, she tried to prevent Wên Yü from getting away, demanding satisfaction for the attack on her husband. Wên Yü then suddenly got behind her and kicked Jung Chang-shih on the left elbow, but she being in a weakly state fell heavily on her side on the threshold of her house and receiving severe internal injuries, died the following day, 2nd September, 1891. As the law in such cases, where a person dies from injuries received, whether from sword or fist or any kind of instrument at the hands of another, condemns the assailant to be decapitated at the Autumn Assizes,

the memorialist having gone through the whole case has sentenced Wên Yü to suffer death on the usual day set apart for the execution of criminals.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments report thereon.*

11th July.

REWARDS ASKED FOR OFFICIALS.

A memorial by Li Hung-chang, Governor-general of Chihli, asking rewards for a number of officials who gave time and money towards the reorganisation of the Jehol region, which was partly devastated in the winter of 1892 by the sectarian insurgents of Chaoyang and Chinchow, Chihli.—*Rescript: Noted.*

INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE CONDUCT OF TWO PREFECTS OF FUKIEN.

T'an Chung-lin, Governor-General of the Min-Chê provinces, states that in accordance with the decree of the 15th May last received by him through the Grand Council, he made the necessary enquiries into the characters and conduct of Tung Yü-ch'i, Prefect of Shaowufu and Yên Liang-hsün, Prefect of Funingfu, and now gives the following results and recommendations. Tung Yü-ch'i, Prefect of Shaowufu, is a man who looks like one who possesses some talent and ability, but unfortunately he is subject to partiality and treats his subordinates according to his likes and dislikes upon which depends whether they are right or wrong. He has no idea of decency. He often brags of his knowledge of the Western arts and sciences; but in reality there is no foundation for his boastings. Last January when Têng Siu-chin gathered a strong body of men to seize by force some criminals that were under the care of the authorities of T'aininghsien which district is within the jurisdiction of the Shaowufu prefecture, in which affair some runners and soldiers were wounded, memorialist sent by express courier a despatch to the said Tung Yü-ch'i to go at once to T'aininghsien to investigate and overawe the malcontents, and, if possible, to seize the ringleaders and bring them to condign punishment. Tung Yü-ch'i had the presumption to delay as long as possible obeying the order of memorialist, and then finally not to go at all but sent instead the retiring Chehsien of Chiening, Ts'ien Têng-yuen, to do what it was his duty to do in person. Finally, memorialist sent the expectant Prefect Ch'iu Jui-chin to T'aininghsien who succeeded in arresting the ringleaders and winding-up the whole affair. Even then,

Tung Yü-ch'i endeavoured to make many excuses, in the hope of whitewashing his insubordinate conduct. The man is certainly unfit for his post and moreover failed to define matters of urgency and those that could be delayed. Memorialist therefore requests a decree degrading Tung Yü-ch'i from his his rank of Prefect to that of a department magistrate of the sixth rank as a warning to others inclined to follow his example. As for the Prefect of Funingfu, Yên Liang-hsün, he is really a man of learning and erudition and withal has always displayed energy and carefulness in his duties. Although his business talents are not of the brilliant order, still he is one who has a respect for himself and so far has not been derelict in his duties. The Imperial Grace is therefore asked for in Yên Liang-hsün's case, that he may keep his present post of Prefect of Funingfu; but if he should at any time evince laziness or lack of attention to his duties, the memorialist will at once report such to the Throne, asking for that official's punishment. As to the now to be vacant post of Prefect of Shaowufu memorialist requests the Imperial permission to allow him to choose a man of Prefect's rank from among the expectants of the province of Fukien to fill that post.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested, and let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

13th July.

SHANSI FAMINE FUNDS.

A postscript memorial by Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, states that although the province of Shantung is liable to periodical inundations by the overflowing of the banks of the Yellow river, and the funds in hand for river works as well as for the relief of native sufferers are none too much, yet the harrowing details of the sufferings of the poor people of the seven departments beyond the Great Wall and those of Tat'ung and Shuhp'ing within China Proper belonging to the neighbouring province of Shansi are such that cramped as memorialist himself and his subordinates are, still they cannot bear to stand by and calmly look on at the wants of a neighbour. It would be against all instincts of Charity. Hence the memorialist, his colleagues the Provincial Treasurer and Judge; the Taotais, Prefects, department and city magistrates of Shantung have clubbed together by which the sum of Tls. 20,000 have been gathered in aid of the sufferers of the nine prefectures and departments of the neighbouring province of Shansi. It is proposed to send

Tls. 10,000 to the care of Shêng Hsián-hua, Customs Taotai at Tientsin, for transmission to Shansi where the money can be distributed by the expectant sub-prefect P'an Ming-piao now in the famine districts of that province, and the other Tls. 10,000 to be sent in a draft to the Governor of Shansi for distribution by that official's deputies towards the same end. In consideration of which memorialist now reports the matter to the Throne in accordance with precedent.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

THE SHANTUNG ARSENAL.

A report by Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, with reference to the disbursements made by the Provincial Treasurer on account of the Shantung Arsenal at Tsinanfu and the work done by it during 1891. There were made during the year under review by the Tsinan or Shantung Arsenal 88,960 cattles of various kinds of gunpowder; 1,394,960 cartridges; 42,000 fuses for field artillery; 200 shells; 200 steel tubings for field artillery; 1,300 solid shot for field artillery; 211,000 Mauser rifle bullets; 330,000 Winchester and Spencer seven-shooter cavalry carbine bullets; 27,000 Martini rifle bullets and 805,000 leaden bullets for ordinary muzzle-loading muskets. In addition to the above-named ammunition there were made by the said Arsenal one large furnace as well as sundry additions to the works itself. A number of firearms and field guns belonging to the various battalions of the province were also mended by the Arsenal authorities, as well as a quantity of new ammunition cases turned out. The expenses for the above as well as what has been spent for the purchase of saltpetre, sulphur, copper, lead, steel, and iron from abroad and at home, and the salaries and wages of the skilled mechanics, director, and staff, etc., belonging to the above establishment for the year 1891 amounted to Tls. 19,199 odd passed to the account of the Board of Revenue; Tls. 6,607 odd passed to the account of the Board of War; and Tls. 18,949 odd passed to the account of the Board of Works, being a total of Tls. 44,756 odd which has been passed to the account of the three Boards above-named.—*Rescript: Let the Boards concerned take note.*

14th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let Fêng Ching-chien be appointed Censor of the Metropolitan Circuit.

(2) Let K'uei Hua be appointed Prefect of Chinchow, Fêngtien.

(3) As Wei Ju-kuei has now finished his period of mourning, let him return to his old appointment as Brigadier-General of Ninghsia, Kansu.

15th July.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Appointing a number of officials to the Provincial Administrations.

KANSU AND THE FAMINE IN SHANSI.

A postscript memorial by Yang Ch'ang-tün, Governor-General of the Shan Kan provinces, to the effect that in 1887-8 during the Yellow River inundations in the provinces of Honan and Anhui, the memorialist's predecessor T'an Chung-lin took Tls. 300,000 belonging to the fixed deposit of the province in the Treasurer's *yanhu* (which is placed there to provide against contingencies) and lent that sum to the Honan and Anhui governments on condition of repayment by them in instalments when the said provinces shall have recovered from the effects of the flood. Since then, more than half of the amount has been received back, out of which Tls. 100,000 have been spent on the new telegraph lines passing through the province into Chinese Turkestan. As the memorialist cannot bear to look on at the distress of a neighbouring province without doing something to help it, especially with the laudable example of the Throne before his eyes, the memorialist now asks for the Imperial consent to use the balance of the fixed deposit now lying in the Provincial Treasury, which, according to the Treasurer of Kansu, Shên Chin-siang, after deducting the Tls. 100,000 expended on the telegraph lines of the province, amounts at present to a little over Tls. 50,000. It is the intention of memorialist to send Tls. 50,000 with all haste to the Governor of Shansi, and to allow that government time to repay the amount whenever that province shall have recovered from the effects of the present distress.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

16th July.

COMPLETION OF THE PERIOD OF MOURNING OF A HIGH MILITARY OFFICIAL.

A postscript memorial by the Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of Chihli, states that on a former occasion Wei Ju-kuei, Brigadier-General of the Ninghsia Circuit, Kansu, and Commander-in-Chief of the "Shêng" Army Corps of Horse and Foot, lying outside Tientsin, reported to the memorialist the death of his mother Wei Wang-shih on the 13th of March,

1891, at his home in Anhui, and prayed memorialist to report the matter to the Throne, asking that a successor be appointed to take his place in order that he might return home to stay in retirement, during the prescribed time fixed for mourning for one's parents. But owing to the fact that the "Shêng" Army Corps, which consists of some eight thousand men, is one of the principal defences of the capital and an important portion of the army covering the Peiyang region, and owing, moreover, to the fact that the men of this Corps were then occupied in river and canal works requiring the constant and immediate supervision of the Commander-in-Chief himself, the memorialist decided that Wei Ju-kuei was too important an officer to be spared long away, and asked and obtained the Imperial consent to allow Wei Ju-kuei one hundred days to go through the principal observances required in such cases, after which time, as a mark of special grace of the Throne, the said Wei Ju-kuei was to return to his command, but give up his Brigadier-Generalship of Ninghsia, in accordance with precedent. From the 13th of March 1891 to the 3rd of July 1891, not counting the intercalary month last year, is just twenty-seven months prescribed by law for the mourning on behalf of one's parents. As the said Wei Ju-kuei is an officer who has done good service for his country and moreover rendered valuable services in river works, memorialist requests that the Brigadier-Generalship of Ninghsia in Kansu be given back to that officer while he still retains him as Commander-in-Chief of the "Shêng" Army Corps guarding one of the approaches to Peking.—*Decree already published.*

17th July.

REPORT ON THE SPRING EXECUTIONS IN SHANTUNG.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, states that in accordance with previous orders, he now presents the list of executions last spring, of men summarily decapitated for the crimes of robbery, rapine, and murder, of which there were eight for the spring quarter.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.*

SENDING BACK TO HIS OWN OFFICIALS OF A COREAN GUILTY OF STEALING ACROSS THE BORDERS AND MURDERING A CHINESE.

Yü Lu, Military Governor, and Hsing Shêng, Assistant Military Governor of Fêng-t'ien, make a joint memorial of the case of a Corean stealing across the borders into Chinese territory for the purpose of finding

work, and then murdering a Chinese. It appears, according to the report of the district magistrate of T'u'nghua who conducted the inquest, that the Coreans Chin Jên-siu and others, having stolen across the borders for the purpose of finding work, joined together in beating a Chinese named Yang, in consequence of which beating the said Yang died. As this was a case between Chinese and people belonging to an outer State, the memorialists immediately ordered that the murderers and documents referring to the case should be sent to the Intendant of the Eastern Marches for trial. The following is the report of this official, which was afterwards verified by the memorialists. Chin Jên-siu is a Corean belonging to the city of Tszch'ên in the province of P'ing-an. In February 1890 he stole across the border into the Chinese frontier district of T'u'nghua, belonging to the province of Fêngt'ien, and joined his adopted father, a Corean named Ts'ao Chi-ying, who lived at a place called Santankou, with whom the said Chin Jên-siu stayed as a servant or assist. Another Corean named Ts'ui Au-t'ou, who has so far escaped, was at the time also in the employ of Chin's adopted father. This Corean was an acquaintance of the murdered Chinese Yang K'uan, a native of T'u'nghua, and to all appearance they were quite friendly with each other. In the month of December of the same year, another Corean, Ts'ao Hao-chün, having occasion for some grain, got Ts'ao Chi-ying to act as security for him, by which the former succeeded in obtaining on credit nine piculs of grain from the deceased, Yang K'uan, valued at 200,000 Fêngt'ien cash, (about \$30), the terms of the loan being that it should be returned in the middle of the autumn of the next year (1891). When the time for repayment of the loan arrived, Yang K'uan only received back three piculs of grain, with promise of the said Ts'ao Hao-chün to return the balance as soon as possible. The promise, however, was never made good, although the deceased, Yang K'uan, made innumerable applications to the bondsman, Ts'ao Chi-ying, for the return of the balance of the grain still owing him by Ts'ao Hao-chün. On the 3rd of October, 1892, the deceased, Yang K'uan again appealed to the bondsman, Ts'ao Chi-ying, demanding from that person his grain. Ts'ao Chi-ying refused, and so Yang K'uan in retaliation led away the former's cow and calf. Upon this Ts'ao Chi-ying, the Corean, threatened to sue the deceased at the police magistrate's *yamen* at Maoerhsan.

When Yang K'uan heard of this, he was making preparations for also suing the Corean when by means of some peace-makers, Yang K'uan returned the cow and calf to Ts'ao Chi-ying and so neither side appealed to the authorities. On the 8th of the same month (October), Yang K'uan having occasion to go to Maoerhsan on business of another nature, passed the farm of the Corean Ts'ao Chi-ying, at whose front door the former met the murderer, the Corean Chin Jên-sui and his escaped confederate Ts'ui Au-t'ou. These two, learning from Yang K'uan that he was bound for Maoerhsan hill and suspecting that he was going there for the purpose of suing Ts'ao Chi-ying, took Yang to task for his supposed errand. But Yang K'uan resented their interference and commenced to swear at them. The two men replied in the same kind of language, whereupon Yang K'uan rushed at Chin Jên-sui in order to deal him a blow. At this Ts'ui Au-t'ou made a side blow at Yang striking him first about the back and sides. These blows, however, do not appear to have hurt Yang, whereupon Chin drew a sharp knife he had with him for protection, with which he made a movement ostensibly to frighten off Yang; but the impetus of Yang brought him in contact with Chin's knife which cut Yang in the breast and stomach. Thereupon Yang fell down shouting out that he was being murdered. Chin and Ts'ui being scared ran away at once. At this moment, Ts'ao Chi-ying's landlord Tsao Ta-li arrived on the scene, and learning the details of the fight from the lips of Yang K'uan sent word to Yang's son, named Yang Fu, who then carried his father into Tsao Ta-li's house and then reported the case to the village constable (*tipao*) Chang Yung-fang and the headman of the Corean community Han Ming-kuo who set about to arrest the perpetrators of the deed. Ts'ui Au-t'ou had disappeared entirely, but Chin Jên-sui was subsequently arrested and taken to Tsao Ta-li's house, to be identified by Yang K'uan. Yang K'uan, however, died the same night he had received his wounds, and the case was reported to the district magistrate of T'unghua, Hsien Ping, who made the inquest, and reported accordingly to the memorialists. According to Chinese law in such cases Chin Jên-sui and Ts'ui Au-t'ou should be strangled to death for being the means, although accidentally, of the death of Yang K'uan. But both being Coreans and Ts'ui Au-t'ou being still at large, memorialists have followed the rules of international usages and have ordered

the Moukden Board of Rites to turn over under escort the principal murderer Chin Jên-sui to his own authorities to be dealt with according to Corean law, at the same time giving orders to the district magistrate of T'unghua to use every means for arresting the runaway confederate Ts'ui Au-t'ou in order that he may be dealt with accordingly.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Rites take note.*

18th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) It grieves us to hear of the death from sickness of K'uei Ping, Military Governor of Jehol, to which post he had been promoted from the Military Governorship of Ch'ahar on account of good service to the State. As a token of special grace let all misdemeanours marked against K'uei Ping's name in the Boards be erased from the records and let the proper *yen* allow his family the State grant of Tls. 500, usual to persons of his rank. This sum may be drawn from the Treasury of the Jehol Intendant of Circuit, and as a further mark of grace let K'uei Ping's son, Yuan T'ung, be given the rank of an Under Secretary of one of the Peking Boards, in token of our sympathy for the bereaved family of a good and faithful servant who has died in his master's service.

(2) Let T'ing Yung be appointed Acting Military Governor of Jehol.

A REPORT ON THE PASSAGE OF THE TRIBUTE GRAIN BOATS THROUGH THE GRAND CANAL.

Hsü Chên-wei, an Officer of the Premier button and Director-General of the Grand Canal, reports the passage of the tribute grain boats belonging to the Kiangpêh fleet through the Grand Canal into the Yell-w River at T'ienchin lock. The memorialist has already reported the entrance of the first squadron of the Kiangpêh tribute grain boats into Shantung waters at Huanglin village, but owing to the various State grants of the tribute rice in aid of famine sufferers the number of boats belonging to this and the Kiangsu fleet has diminished considerably from that of former years, and for this reason there has been always plenty of water for navigating the grain boats passing through the Canal, although memorialist at the head of his staff of the Canal Intendant and his subordinates have in no wise lacked watchfulness and care to provide for any contingency for the safe passage of the various grain fleets, by which means there have been no blocks or other mishaps reported. The memorialist also sent deputies to hasten on

the grain fleets which as already reported entered the Shantung jurisdiction of the Grand Canal on the 6th of June last, and now has to report the arrival of the whole fleet at Tsining from the 21st of June at 12 o'clock; noon, to the 25th of the same month at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. On the 1st of July at 10 o'clock in the forenoon the whole fleet passed the T'ienchin lock safely in one long line into the Yellow river. As in this portion of Shantung there has been very little rain, the e was much fear entertained in case there should be a lack of water, insufficient for the safe navigation of the above mentioned fleets of Kiangsu and Kiangpeh, but the vigilance and care of the memorialist's subordinates in closing and opening the various locks at the proper moment obviated all danger and the tribute grain boats have passed safely into the Yellow river.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

19th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the notice from the Court of Sacrificial Worship asking us to appoint some one to worship in our stead at the Temple of the God of Fire on the 4th of August, let Ch'ang Ming be appointed for the purpose.

(2) With reference to the notice from the same Court as to who should go in our stead to Worship at the Rear Altar of the Imperial Ancestral Temple on the occasion of our birthday on the 9th of August, let Lung Ch'ing be appointed for the purpose.

(3) With reference to another notice from the same Court we will go ourselves to the Imperial Ancestral Temple to sacrifice on the occasion of the festival of the first Autumnal month on the 12th of August. Let K'uei Pin sacrifice at the Rear Altars; Tsai Tsin at the Eastern Minor Altars, and Si Kuang at the Western Minor Altars.

(4) Let Lin Ch'i be appointed Prefect of Ch'uchou in Ch'ekiang.

THE DEATH OF THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF JEHOL.

Siang Yao and Kuei Ts'un, Chief and Assistant Comptrollers-General of Jehol, jointly memorialise concerning the death of K'uei Ping, Military Governor of Jehol, and pray that the Throne would speedily appoint a successor to fill the vacancy. The subject of this memorial was over seventy

years of age when he came to Jehol, and to all appearance seemed to be healthy and to possess a strong constitution. No sooner had he arrived than the deceased officer worked early and late at the duties of his post and in the reorganisation of the region which had been devastated last winter by sectarian rebels. Unfortunately he was attacked again by his old complaints of asthma and catarrh, and although the Imperial grace allowed him at his own request to refrain from work a short time in order to regain his health, age and other reasons combined to make K'uei Ping succumb to the disease and he died on the 12th of July. He has only one son, Yuan T'ung, a child of eight who followed him to his post. Since K'uei Ping's death the affairs of Jehol have been administered by the memorialists who confided the seals of the Military Governor to Major Mu Hah-lien, Keeper of the Seals, bidding that officer to seal them up in accordance with the regulations on such occasions.—*Decree already published.*

20th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let Liang Pih be appointed Chief Supervisor of Instruction (to the Heir Apparent).

(2) Let Ch'ung Nien be appointed Deputy Captain-General in charge of the Left Wing, and En P'u, Deputy Captain-General in charge of the Right Wing in the civil examinations of the Banner youths, this year.

(3) Let Yü Shu go as Examiner of the same.

(4) Wu Ta-ch'eng reports that the people of the district of Lalinghsien in Hunan were unable to gather in a good harvest last year, and that a drought this summer has still further distressed them, owing to which they are in danger of starvation, and he prays us to give relief to the sufferers in that district. Let Wu Ta-ch'eng first take Tls. 20,000 out of the likin department to buy rice to supply the famine-stricken people, and let the Board of Revenue speedily send that official Tls. 30,000 with which to return the money taken from the likin department and let him use the balance of Tls. 10,000 to buy further supplies of grain to be distributed to those that require aid most urgently. Let there be no waste or indiscriminate dispensation of charity and let all do their duty in the way that would please us most in our anxiety for the welfare of our people.

THE COURT.

His Majesty will proceed in person to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock to sacrifice at the shrine of His Majesty's first ancestors and at the shrine of Imperial Longevity.

21st July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the request of the Court of Censors that we should appoint a Censor out of their number to watch the civil examinations of the youths of the various Banners at Peking, let Sung Ling and Chêng Ssu-ho go as Proctors of the above examinations.

(2) Let Hu Chün-chang be appointed Keeper of the Seals of the Board of Works.

THE COURT.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 10.30 o'clock to grant Audience in the Chêng Kuang Throne Hall (to the new German Minister).

SATINS AND SILKS FOR THE IMPERIAL COURT.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chêkiang, reports in a postscript memorial that in accordance with urgent despatches from the Board of Revenue to provide by any means for the payment of gold and embroidered work for silks and satins for the use of the Imperial Court, to be made by the Director of the Imperial Manufactory of Hangchow, he has consulted with the Provincial Treasurer Liu Shu-t'ang and Hui Nien, Salt Comptroller of Chêkiang, as to the ways and means. The Imperial Household Department requires 2,310 pieces of gold and embroidered silks and satins for robe-making purposes which have been valued at Tls. 145,240 odd. As the Treasury of Chêkiang still owes some Tls. 300,000 which should have been paid on two former occasions for a quantity of silks and satins made by the Hangchow Manufactory for the Imperial Household, and as the Treasurer has no funds just now to make up the deficit from the sources allowed by Government for the purpose, it follows that some other ways and means should be arrived at to pay for the silks and satins required by the Imperial Household at this moment, in consideration of the urgent despatches from the Board of Revenue allowing memorialist to use money belonging to any source of revenue of Chêkiang for the purpose. Memorialist in conjunction with the Provincial Treasurer and Salt Comptroller has therefore drawn Tls. 60,000 as a first instalment from the likin treasury for the

purpose in view, the balance to be provided as occasion offers.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

22nd July.

THE COURT.

His Majesty proceeded this morning to the Chêng Kuang Throne Hall and gave an audience to the German Ambassador, Shêng-kô—Baron Schenck zu Schweinsberg.

CHÊKIANG'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SHANSI FAMINE FUND.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chêkiang, in a postscript memorial, expresses his admiration at the Imperial bounty in setting the example of providing aid, out of the privy purse and revenues, for the sufferers in the seven departments outside the Great Wall, and the three prefectures inside the wall belonging to the province of Shansi, during the present distress in that portion of the Empire. Since then, however, memorialist has received despatches from both the Governors of Kiangsu and Shansi calling upon him to assist in the good work, since the departments above-named are now suffering not only from the drought which was the origin of the present distress but also by the recent breaches made in the rivers on account of which the country has been flooded, causing inestimable damage and much loss of life to the inhabitants, the residue being now on the point of starvation. In view of this, memorialist has set about to find ways and means to respond to the calls made upon him. From a petition by the high officials having charge of the Chêkiang Charity Board in aid of the Shunt'ien and Chihli famine, he finds that owing to an order from the Viceroy of Chihli calling upon them to close the famine list for Chihli by the end of the 4th moon of this year (May-June) there is still some money to come in to the above fund. When called upon to open a famine list last year in aid of the sufferers from the floods in Shunt'ienfu (Peking district) and Chihli, the high authorities of Chêkiang decided to call upon the charity of silk and tea merchants of Chêkiang by adding likin levies of one dollar and twenty cents to every bale of silk and one mace to every tael of likin tax on the tea. This was to commence from the 10th moon of last year (November—December 1892) and last up to the end of the 9th moon of this year, (October—November 1893) or one lunar year. As in the first instance, the

Viceroy of Chihli had commanded the famine list to end by the expiration of the 4th moon this year, there was no necessity to collect any more of this extra tax on silk and tea. But now, owing to the urgent request for aid from Shansi, memorialist has determined to continue the tax up to the prescribed period, and roughly calculates Tls. 40,000 could still be collected for the purpose. As this requires time, naturally memorialist proposes to borrow this amount from the Chékiang Treasury to be repaid by the likin department in instalments as soon as they collect their extra tax. The money thus borrowed will be sent post haste to the Shansi Famine Bureau located at Tientsin under the auspices of the Viceroy of Chihli, with the request that it should be sent as soon as possible to the Shansi Governor Chang Hsi to be distributed in the places where help is most required.—*Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

23rd July,

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Since the commencement of the summer refreshing showers gave great promise of an abundant harvest in the Metropolitan Prefecture for the autumn, unfortunately too much rain began to fall afterwards, so that we went ourselves twice to the Temple of the Most High to offer incense and beseech the protection of the Supreme Merciful One, praying that there may be a change of calm weather, in consequence of which our prayers were answered. Recently, however, never-ceasing rains have again arrived, and there are fears that they will turn out to be a calamity. We in our great anxiety for the welfare of our people have therefore decided to go again on the 25th instant to the Temple of the Most High to offer incense and beseech the clemency of the Gods for serene weather once more.

(2) As the post of the Prefect of Kueiyangfu in Kueichow is one of prime importance, let the Governor of the province choose from the entire number of prefects under him, the one most worthy of that post and let Tsao Shih-chün be appointed to the prefecture thus left vacant by the man of the Governor's choice.

(3) Appointing a large number of officials to various posts in the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

AID TO FAMINE SUFFERERS IN SHANTUNG.

Fu Yün, with the brevet grade of a President of a Board and Governor of Shantung, makes a summary of the State

aid granted to the people of Shantung who have suffered from the Yellow River inundations and the tidal wave along the sea coast of that province. Commencing from the month of July 1884, to the end of December 1892, not counting the aid given by the official classes and the gentry of different provinces, which will be dealt with in another paper, the total State grants with reference to the above amounted to Tls. 3,769,550 odd. In addition to this money grant, of course made at various times, there were received 81,152 odd piculs of rice from the southern tribute rice; 118,846 odd piculs of rice, wheat and *kaoliang* brought with Government money from other sources, and 498,915 suits of cotton wadded clothing for the sufferers. Of the money grants referred to above, Tls. 3,720,279 odd were distributed as occasion offered during the periods of want, including Tls. 245,000 which were paid in return for the labour of the sufferers in building up the Yellow river breaches, etc., while of the total of cotton wadded clothing received for the sufferers there were distributed 486,506 suits, leaving in reserve 11,589 suits and Tls. 49,270, odd, ready for future distribution. As for the tribute rice and other cereals already referred to, they were distributed as occasion offered in their entirety, leaving nothing in reserve. The above accounts have been verified by the memorialist from the books of the Official Board of Famine Relief, and he now requests the Board of Revenue to pass them. Memorialist also requests to be allowed to present to the Throne the names of certain philanthropists for reward who have distinguished themselves in giving time and money in aid of the poor famine-stricken people of Shantung, which were handed to him by the Board of Famine relief above-named.—*Rescript: Let the said Governor present to us the names of the philanthropists referred to, but let him exercise care in naming only those deserving of reward. As to the rest, let it be as requested, and let the proper Board take note.*

24th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let Ying Ju-chang and Chou Si-ên go as Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Chékiang province.

(2) Let Wu Hung-chia and P'êng Shê go as Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Hupeh province.

(3) Let Hün Yên and Tsou Fu-pao go as Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Kiangsi province.

A DEFAULTING CHEHSIEN.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chêkiang, in conjunction with the Governor-General of the Min-Chê provinces, requests the Imperial consent to confiscate the property and belongings of a deceased district magistrate, who has been found, on vacating his post, to have failed to account for certain government funds amounting to Tls. 7,933 odd, to his successor and also to have damaged through the carelessness of his subordinates over 502 piculs or *shih* of grain, stored in the government granaries of his district. According to the report of Liu Shu-tang, Provincial Treasurer of Chêkiang, who quotes the despatch of Tê-k'ô-chin-a, Prefect of Wênchow, the defaulting magistrate of Lots'inghsien, who is now dead, Shêng Yü, failed to account to his successor on delivering the seals of his office, for government funds aggregating to a total of Tls. 7,933 odd, and that when his successor the new Chehsien of Lots'inghsien, in the prefecture of Wênchow, examined the district granaries he found that owing to the carelessness of his predecessor's subordinates in not repairing the roofs of the granaries, over 502 *shih* of grain had become mildewed or damaged by the rain dripping through the roofs, and was utterly unfit for food. In consequence of this memorialists request permission to confiscate the property of the now deceased Shêng Yü, whether at Lots'inghsien or his house in Hangchow, for which purpose they request to be allowed to order the Prefects of Hangchow and Wênchow to make secret enquiries as to the actual estate of the deceased officer in order that a proper valuation may be made to make up the outstanding deficits. Furthermore, the deceased Shêng Yü having been a member of the White Banner of the Hanchün Corps, the Throne is asked to command the Captain-General of his Banner at Peking to find out what property the deceased official owned in his allotment and have the same sold on account immediately and the proceeds sent on to Hangchow in order to make up the whole amount that has been owing by the deceased Shêng Yü.—*Receipt: Let it be as requested and let the proper yamen take note.*

CHEKIANG'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NORTH CHINA RAILWAY.

A postscript memorial by the same Governor states that he has been informed by Liu Shu-t'ang, Treasurer of the province, that he has provided Tls. 20,000 from the proper land tax, Tls. 15,000 from the salt

revenue and Tls. 15,000 from the likin taxes, totalling Tls. 50,000, which amount is now ready to be handed to the Jê Shêng-ch'ang banking institution for transmission by draft to Tientsin, into the hands of Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli and Supreme Co-Director of the Imperial North China Railways. This is in accordance with the Edict of 1890, despatched through the Board of Revenue, ordering each province to contribute an annual sum of Tls. 50,000 in aid of building the North China Railways, and in accordance with the request of Li Hung-chang that these annual contributions from each province should be sent to Tientsin instead of Peking in order to save time. The contribution sent this time is Chêkiang's share for the present year 1893.—*Receipt: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

IMPERIAL RECOGNITION FOR A CENTENARIAN.

Wu Ta-chêng, Governor of Hunan, states that Ch'ên K'ai-yi, father of Ch'ên Jui-ling, an expectant Colonel of Chêkiang, has now attained the great age of one hundred years, having been born in the 55th year of the reign of Ch'ien Lung (1802) during which time the said Ch'ên K'ai-yi had always been famed in his district of Ch'angsha as an exemplary member of the community teaching his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren the paths of virtue and filial piety. As there is a law in the statutes of the Empire that any subject, irrespective of age, who sees before him his descendants down to the fifth generation (counting from the person himself) should receive Imperial recognition in the shape of a tablet or inscription from the Emperor himself, and the memorialist, having personally verified the petition of Ch'ên K'ai-yi's sponsors, General P'êng Chih-liang, the district magistrate of Ch'angsha, and some other members of the gentry of the district, feels it to be his duty to ask for the Imperial recognition, allowed by the statutes, especially in view of the virtuous and upright conduct of the aged subject of this memorial, a step which has also received the approval of Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of the Hukuang provinces.—*Receipt: Let the Board of Rites report thereon.*

25th July.

THE CHEKIANG SQUADRON.

A postscript memorial by the Governor of Chiang, Sung Chün, reports that according to the petition of the retiring

Taotai of Wênchow Tsao Shu-jao promoted to the Judgeship of Chêkiang, and Wu Ying-sün, Taotai of Ningpo, the repairs made in 1891 at Shanghai to the gunboat *Chaoca* and in 1892 to the gunboat *K'aiyuan*, belonging to the Chêkiang squadron, under the superintendence of the deputy Tai Sz-yuan, amounted to Tls. 32,166 odd, the accounts of which have been personally verified by the memorialist. As these ships were built at the Foochow Dockyard over ten years ago, they were in a rather dilapidated condition, and the repairs required were urgent. The Boards of Revenue and War are requested to pass the accounts.—*Rescript: Let the Boards concerned report thereon.*

26th July.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

T'ang Ching-ch'ung is appointed a Reader of the Hanlin Yuan or Imperial Academy.

27th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Although since the commencement of this summer we have several times sacrificed at the Temple of the Most High, beseeching for a cessation of the continuous rains which are spoiling the autumn crops, and although in answer to our prayers the heavens became serene again for a short time, yet the weather has become stormy once more and there appears to be no likelihood of its ceasing. In view of this we are determined to go once more to the Temple of the Most High on the 29th instant and beseech again the clemency of Heaven to grant calmer weather for the sake of our subjects. We intend also on that day to visit the Hsuen Jên temple for worship, and command that Tsai Lien, Prince of the Third Order (Beilêh) go in our stead to sacrifice at the Temple of Propitious Seasons; Tsai Ying, Prince of the Third Order, to sacrifice at the Temple of Miracles, and Tsai Shu, Prince of the Third Order to sacrifice at the Ningho Temple, on this occasion.

(2) The Metro-polis has suffered much from the effects of the rains recently, and since the 24th instant there has been no cessation of wet weather. We therefore entertain fears that the rivers will be swollen and the crops of the Metropolitan district entirely spoiled. Let the Governor-General of Chihli and the Governor of Shunt'ien Fu make inquiries as to what districts have suffered from the rains and immediately set about measures for giving relief to the people and let us know at

once what they have done in the matter. The Commander-in-Chief of the Peking Gendarmerie is also commanded to memorialise us as to the number of houses that have collapsed in the capital through the rains, and to let us know at once if any one has been killed or injured by the falling of these houses, in order that our anxiety may be set at rest and that speedy relief may be afforded to sufferers.

28th July.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let Ch'ing Ling be appointed Superintendent of the Imperial Silk Looms at Soochow.

THE COURT.

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor will go in person to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock to sacrifice at the temples of the Most High and the Hsuen Jên or temple of Assembly of Virtuous Men. His Majesty the Emperor has appointed K'un Kang and Hsi Ching to be examiners of the student translators' archery competition on horseback and on foot.

ACTING PREFECT OF CHÜCHOWFU.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chêkiang, reports the death of Ho Ying-fu, Prefect of Chüchowfu on the 14th of June last, and while awaiting the appointment by the Throne of the deceased official's successor memorialist has in the meantime sent the second class expectant-Prefect Wêng T'seng-Shun a man of ability and worth, to act *pro tem.* as Prefect of Chüchowfu. This memorialist has done with the approval of T'an Chung-lin, Governor-General of Min-Chê, and at the recommendation of Liu Shu-t'ang, Provincial Treasurer of Chêkiang.—*Decree already published.*

REPORT OF THE ACTING PROVINCIAL JUDGE OF CHÊKIANG.

Hui Nien, Salt Comptroller of Chêkiang and Acting Provincial Judge, an officer of the premier button, gives thanks for the honour that has been conferred upon him by this acting appointment, in succession to Huang Yu-ên, promoted to the Treasurership of Fukien, who delivered over the seals of the Provincial Judgeship to the memorialist on the 30th of June last, as the said Huang Yu-ên was to go up to Peking for audience with the Throne immediately. The memorialist, aware of his own mediocre attainments and feeling the great importance of this acting appointment, promises to deserve the honour by a

continuous exercise of vigilance and carefulness, and not venturing upon acting in anything on his own responsibility will consult on all occasions with the Governor of Chékiang.—*Rescript: Noted.*

29th July.

CAPTURE OF ROBBERS ON THE GRAND CANAL.

Sung Ta'ün, Director-General of Grain Transport, states that according to the permission granted him by the Throne to present the names of the successful officials whose energies led to the capture of the leader of the notorious band of robbers who have been infesting the region in the vicinity of the Grand Canal, he now requests permission to ask that promotions may be awarded to thirty-three officers—civil and military. It will be remembered, from a memorial by this official at the time, that these officers managed to capture on the 16th of February last, Lo Ta-kuang-tze and Pao Kuan, captain and lieutenant of a notorious band of river pirates, under exceptionally difficult circumstances. As His Majesty has been pleased to consider that the officers concerned were deserving of reward, the memorialist ventures to vouch that the names of the officers presented by him for reward are all *bona fide*, and that no favouritism has been exercised in the matter.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board report thereon.*

30th July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Wu Shu-mei, formerly Tutor in the Imperial Academy of Learning, is ordered to do duty in the Imperial College of Inscriptions.

(2) Yang Shu-ch'ü and twenty-three others who were successful in passing the Palace examinations recently, are to be set down as candidates for any vacancies that may occur in the Secretariat of the Grand Council.

(3) With reference to the memorial of the Board of War praying the Throne to appoint Examiners for the horse and foot archery competition of the student interpreters of the various Banners, let Hsi Ching and K'un Kang go.

(4) Wu Erh-ching-a is appointed Proctor of the examinations.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENT.

The Grand Secretary Fu K'un having completed his leave of absence, reports his return to his duties. Huang Yü-ên, Provincial Treasurer of Fukien, reports his arrival at Peking from the South.

THE CHINESE LEGATION IN ENGLAND.

Hsueh Fu-ch'ên, an officer of the second grade button, Senior Vice-President of the Court of Censors and Minister to Great Britain and France, states that according to the regulations governing *attachés* of Ministers abroad, to the effect that they are allowed to be presented to the Throne for promotion after they shall have completed three full years of service abroad, he, the memorialist, now begs to present the expectant deputy magistrate Wang Fêng-kao, and the military *attaché*, Hsueh Kuei-hsing, an officer of the fifth military button, for promotion, they having now completed their three full years of service under the memorialist in England. The memorialist asks that the deputy magistrate Wang Fêng-kao be promoted to be a full magistrate (*cheshien*) in Chibli, of which he is an expectant, with the brevet button of a sub-prefect, and that the military *attaché*, Hsueh Kuei-hsing, be promoted to a lieutenantancy with privilege to wear a plain feather in his official hat.—*Rescript: Let it be so and let the proper yamen take note.*

31st July.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chiang Kuei-ti is appointed Brigadier-General of the Lingyuan Military Division of Yünnan.

(2) In accordance with the memorial of Sung Fan, Governor of Kueichow, reporting the misconduct of the now deceased magistrate of Pihtsihsien, Huang Tao-an, to the effect that on delivering over the seals of his office to his successor, the said Huang Tao-an failed to account for large sums arising from the receipts of the autumn land taxes of his district, and that the family of the said Hang Tao-an had the audacity to return to their home in Kuangsi without making any arrangements as to clearing the debts of the head of the family, thereby showing contempt for the constituted laws of the realm, we command that the Governor of Kuangsi proceed forthwith to investigate the matter and enquire what property is held by the family of Huang Tao-an, in order that it may be sold and the proceeds of the sale thereof be turned over to the Government of Kueichow to replace the deficit occasioned by the defaults of the said deceased magistrate Huang Tao-an. And furthermore, let the proper *yamens* take note that the titles of the said Huang Tao-an be forthwith erased from the records, in punishment of the said officer's misdeeds.

(3) A decree to the Grand Council to the effect that no State business shall be transacted on the 6th, 7th and 9th of August. (In commemoration of His Majesty the Emperor's twenty-second birthday.)

THE KOLAO HUI IN KIANGSI.

Fang Ju-yi, an officer of the premier button, Provincial Treasurer and Acting-Governor of Kiangsi, in a postscript memorial gives a *résumé* of the trials and sentences of certain members of the *Kolao Hui* in Kiangsi, and asks that rewards should be granted to certain officials who had distinguished themselves in bringing to justice the remaining members of the late insurrection in the province. In some former memorials by the then Governor of Kiangsi, Tê Hsing, the Throne had already been made aware of the fact that in the month of September of last year, certain *Kolao Hui* members of this province being joined by emissaries from Hunan had raised the standard of revolt in the district of Pinghsiang, belonging to the prefecture of Yunchow, and that Tê Hsing had sent both military and naval forces against the insurgents, and had succeeded in crushing and arresting the principal leaders of the insurrection. Fearing, however, notwithstanding this, that the insurrection had not entirely been eradicated, Tê Hsing gave repeated and strict injunctions to his subordinates not to neglect any opportunity of exercising the utmost vigilance in rooting out the seeds of what might after all prove a serious outbreak in the province. This was fortunate, for on the 11th of February last, the following report was received from Chou Hao, Intendant of the Chi-Nan-Hou-Ning Circuit to the effect that he, assisted by the Chehsien of Haochow, Wu Chung-ch'ien, then acting *pro tem.* as prefect of Haochow, having heard that members of the *Kolao Hui* were distributing tickets of membership to the people living in the Haonan and Chian districts with intent to gather a body of men for the purpose of creating mischief, he, Chou Hao, had immediately sent a confidential deputy at the head of his body-guard with instructions to get together the civil and military authorities of the vicinity and set about at once to capture or disperse the band of malcontents. The deputy succeeded in arresting two chiefs, Lu Siu-hung and Li Lao-pêh while the acting prefect of Haochow, Wu Chung-ch'ien, guided by spies managed to arrest another chief, T'ang Hung-ts'ai, and unearthed a lot of cloth membership

tickets, weapons and firearms, the property of the society. The said T'ang Hung-ts'ai has confessed at his examination that he had been enticed into joining the society by a man named Chou Mou-kuei, and had been made by him chief leader of all the country comprised within the Haonan district, with the title of *Fulingt'ou* or "Assistant Dragon's-head." Furthermore that the new assistants Lu Siu-hung and Li Lao-pêh, captured by the deputy before mentioned had been appointed to be "unconnected" or "roving" chiefs of the country comprised within the T'ungmu and Lake Kô district, with power to increase the number of the society by distributing cloth tickets of membership to anyone who could be induced to join the *Kolao Hui*. The said T'ang Hung-ts'ai, acting under orders from the still at large Chou Mou-kuei, had notified the other two new leaders Lu Siu-hung and Li Lao-pêh, to be ready with arms and men on the 16th of February last, so that they might enter the city of Haochow that night and be ready to capture it on the following day (Chinese New Year's day). The above confession having been sworn to by the said T'ang Hung-ts'ai and the said Lu Siu-hung and Li Lao-pêh, the Governor, Tê Hsing, being of the opinion that these men's crimes were such as to be unpardonable, gave orders that the three men above-mentioned should be forthwith executed at the market place of the city which they had attempted to take and make the basis of their insurrection. Again, the *chehsien* of P'ingshianghsien, Ku Chia-siang, having reported that he had succeeded in capturing two leading members of the society, Tê Hsing gave orders that the men should be tried by the acting-prefect of Yuanchow, Hsü Ch'êng-chia, who elicited the following facts from Wu Kêng-ku, one of the prisoners. He entered the *Kolao Hui* in the beginning of the month of September, 1892, in company with the other prisoner Wên Ching-pang, having been enticed into doing so by an acquaintance of his called Ch'iu Ma-tze, from whom he bought his ticket of membership. On the 13th of January, 1893, they (the prisoners) met Liu K'uei-yung and others who asked their coöperation in robbing the house of a man named Ch'ên Fu-yuan, in the city of P'ingshiang, and that he, Wu Kêng-ku, had stayed without the house guarding the front gate while the others went in to rob. After the affair he received as his share of the plunder a piece of smoked pork and a leaden teapot which he sold. Shortly

afterwards he was arrested and swears to the truth of his and Wên Ching-pang's confession. At these two men were guilty of both voluntarily joining the *Kolao Hui*, paying the fees for the privilege, and of robbery, memorialist came to the conclusion that they were worthy of the full extent of the law and so gave orders for their immediate execution at the place of their misdeeds. As, in the meantime, the other prisoner, Wên Ching-pang, had died in prison, before sentence had been conferred, the memorialist gave orders that the deceased prisoner's coffin should be opened and his head struck off from the trunk and displayed in conjunction with that of Wu Kêng-ku. Again five men, Ho Li-ch'êng, Yên Fu-shêng, Liu Kou-tze, Kô T'ien-fa and Tsu Tsung-yuan, members of the *Kolao Hui*, were captured at various times by Ts'ui Chi, sub-prefect of Lienhuat'ing, and Colonel Shêng Tao-fa, commanding the "Kang" battalion of foot, and the acting *chehsien* of Anfuhsien, Lin Tsu-hsing, in conjunction with the Major of the Ch'ien-shan battalion, Wang Ching-lun. The cases of these five prisoners were sent by the Governor, Tê Hsing, to P'ang Fu-siang, Acting-Prefect of the metropolitan city of Nanch'angfu who elicited from them the following facts, which were afterwards verified by Yü K'un, Provincial Judge, and by the memorialist himself, who had then taken over the seals of the acting Governorship, in place of Tê Hsing who had gone up to Peking for audience. Ho Li-ch'êng confessed that he was a member of the *Kolao Hui* and that he had taken part in the battle between his society and the government troops at Nank'ang. This showed that he was a willing member of the society and voluntarily joined in opposing the constituted authorities. Memorialist considering that this man by his deeds was out of the pale of mercy, accordingly gave orders for his immediate decapitation, and that his head should be sent to the scene of his misdeeds, as a serious warning to the disaffected. In the case of Yên Fu-shêng and Liu Kou-tze these two had been guilty of purchasing cloth tickets of membership, while Kô T'ien-fa and Tsu Tsung-yuan had willingly listened to the exhortations of *Kolao Hui* emissaries to join the society. But as none of these four men had been found guilty of gathering bodies of men for the purpose of opposing the government, and, moreover, as they had fled in fear from their evil companions, memorialist considered that they were entitled to mercy, and so sentenced the first two to ten years' and the

last two to five years' imprisonment. At the end of their sentences, their conduct in the meanwhile being recorded, it shall be determined as to what should be done with them. The memorialist, therefore, considers that the officials mentioned above in this memorial and a number of others whose names are hereby appended who gave effectual assistance in bringing the criminals to justice, are deserving of reward and he now marks to the name of each officer the step in promotion he should receive for his services. As for the expectant *T'itu* or General-in-Chief, Yao Kuang-wu, Brigadier-General of the Haohou Military Division, and Chou Hao, Taotai or Intendant of the Chi-Nan-Hao-Ning Circuit, they as chiefs of the military and civil officers named above are in the memorialist's opinion worthy of extra recognition for the efficient manner in which they led their subordinates.—*Rescript: Let Yao Kuang-wu and Chou Hao be turned over to the proper Board for the determination of a special reward and let it be as requested regarding the other officials. Let the proper yamen take note.*

1st August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

- (1) Let Pao Nien be appointed Brigade-General of the Manchu garrison at Chiung-k'ou.
- (2) Let Mu-lung-a be given the brevet rank of a Brigade-General and let him travel by Government Post to his new office of Commandant of the Sibè Military Colonists in Ili.
- (3) Let the officials denounced by T'an Chung-ling, Governor-General of the Min-Ché provinces, as either mediocre, avaricious, frivolous, parsimonious, or reckless in various ways of their personal reputation, be forthwith degraded from their posts and rank and be dismissed the service forever. As for the others let it be as requested and let the proper *yamen* take note.

THE COURT.

His Imperial Majesty will, to-morrow, after having transacted affairs of State, grant audience to the high Ministers, and then return to the Palace. Tsao Shu-jao reports his arrival at Peking and asks after the Imperial health. His Majesty has granted audience through the Grand Council to the Grand Secretary Lin, Ching-sing, and Tsao Shu-jao, Provincial Judge of Chêkiang.

No other news of interest.

2nd August.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let Wu F'ang-kuei be appointed T'itu or General-in-Chief of the province of Hup'eh.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Sün Yü-wén returns thanks for the Imperial gifts on the occasion of his recent birthday. Chiang Kuei-t'í, newly made Brigadier-General of the Military Division of Lingyuanin in Yunnan, returns thanks for his post. The Marquises Lih and Sih ask for ten days' leave of absence. The following nobles were appointed by His Majesty to examine the vegetable diet for the Imperial table, Ching-sing, husband of an Imperial Princess, the Marquis of K'ó, Ming Sin, Sin Chi, Chi Hêng, En T'ao and Yü Shu.

ENTERING A MILITARY OFFICIAL IN THE CHEKIANG LIST.

Sung Chün, Governor of Ch'ekiang, states that he has received a despatch from Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, recommending that the Colonel Yuan Ts'ün-ho, a native of Ch'anghsinghsien, Ch'ekiang, aged forty-six years, who has distinguished himself repeatedly in Shantung fighting against the Nienfei and other rebels, be received into the military service of his own native province of Ch'ekiang. The memorialist finds that the said Colonel Yuan Ts'ün-ho is also highly recommended by T'ao Mu, Governor of the New Dominion, under whom he at one time served, and taken altogether he thinks that this officer will be a valuable addition to the military staff of the province.—*Rescript: Let it be so and let the Board of War take note.*

3rd August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let Han Chin-ch'ang be appointed Brigadier-general of the Sueitsing Military Division of Hunan.

(2) Let Ting Wei-chi and Hsü Chi-nu be appointed Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Shensi respectively.

(3) Let Hsü Hui-fêng and Wên T'ing-shih be appointed Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Kiangnan respectively.

(4) The memorial of the Commander-in-Chief of the Peking Gendarmerie reports that thirteen persons were killed by the falling of houses belonging to the right, left, and middle barracks in the Tartar city; let the proper *yamen* determine the proper amount to be given as help to each person's family and let the said Commander-in-Chief report the number of

persons killed or injured in any subsequent accidents caused by the present rains.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Sung K'un, Provincial Treasurer of Kueichow, reports his arrival at Peking and asks after the Imperial health. Pao Nien returns thanks for his appointment to the Brigade Generalship of Ching'ou.

No other news of interest.

4th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Owing to the destruction of life and crops amongst the people living in the Metropolitan prefecture, caused by the recent rains, we commanded the Governor of Shuntienfu to make enquiries and make a report of his investigations at once to us. According to the memorial of Sün Chia-wei and others, now before us, it is said that the country lying towards the south-east has suffered the most from the rains and the torrents rushing down the hills, while at the same time the rivers having swollen up, an inevitable inundation followed, resulting in great losses in life and property. The memorialists therefore sent deputies to the various points to make a calculation and now pray that we should grant relief in rice and money to the suffering people. We have been deeply grieved at this and sincerely sympathise with the suffering of our people. Let it be as requested in the memorial, and let rice gruel stations be first opened forthwith at the six gates of the outer city, with six other stations in the suburban villages, and let 10,000 piculs of rice from the Imperial granaries be given to the memorialists for distribution. Let, moreover, the Board of Revenue pay the Tls. 2,000 required for building the twelve stations above mentioned, and let Sün Chia-wei urge the *cheksiens* of Tungan and Yung ts'ing commanding them to make haste in making up their reports as to what sort of aid is required in their districts. Let the proper *yamen* take note of the matters mentioned in the memorial which has received our approval.

(2) Let Wang Wên-ching act as Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works and Director of the Coinage Department in the absence of Hsü Hui-li now acting away from the Capital in the capacity of Imperial High Commissioner of the provincial examinations at Nanking.

COURT NEWS.

Hsü Hui-li gives thanks for his appointment as Chief Imperial High Commissioner of the provincial examinations to be held

at Nanking by special act of grace. His Majesty has appointed Ch'ung Li as examiner of the repairs that have been done to the offices of the Court of Supervision. His Majesty gave Audience to-day to K'ò Mên-tai and Li Hung-k'uei who were introduced by the Grand Council.

THE NEW TAOTAI OF AMOY.

T'an Chung-lin, Governor-General of the Min-Chê provinces, states that in obedience to the decree that the memorialist should choose the man he thinks best fitted for the Intendency of the Hsing-Ch'uan-Yung Circuit of Fukien out of all the Taotais in the province, and that the post left vacant should be given to the expectant Taotai Ying P'ò, he, the memorialist, immediately set to work to obey the Imperial commands. But he now reports that of those Taotais whom he could trust to take up this important post at Amoy which is considered the most difficult place to govern in the province, he finds that such officers are mostly holding posts from which they cannot well be spared. In view of this, as the said Ying P'ò has had considerable experience first as a metropolitan official and then sent by special act of grace to the provincial administrations, and, furthermore, since this officer has already at one time previously held an acting appointment of the post in question, during which time he had proved himself a careful and able administrator, memorialist, therefore, at the recommendation also of Chang Kuo-chên, acting Provincial Treasurer, and Ch'ên Ming-chih, acting Provincial Judge of Fukien, ventures to suggest that Ying P'ò be appointed to the Intendency of the Hsing-Ch'uan-Yung circuit, as a man perfectly fitted for the onerous duties of that post. *Rescript*—*Let it be as requested and let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

IMPERIAL RECOGNITION ASKED FOR AN AGED MATRON.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, asks for the Imperial recognition allowed by statute in the case of the nonagenarian mother of Ch'êng Jên-chuen, district magistrate of Changshan, Shantung. This aged lady is now ninety-two years of age, she has borne six sons and sees around her sixteen grandsons, eleven great-grandsons and one great-great grandson. She has moreover seen seven generations, but unfortunately the last two have died since then.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Rites report thereon.*

5th August.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock to view the theatrical performances in honour of the Imperial birthday celebrations.

REMOVAL OF THE DALAI LAMA TO SUMMER QUARTERS.

K'uei Huan, Chinese resident at Lhassa, states that owing to being ordered to reside at Sining to watch over the caravan routes into China, he was not able to be present at the removal of the Dalai Lama from the Putala Monastery at Lhassa, Tibet, to his summer quarters at Silupu hill, but from the petition of the Grain Commissioner of Tibet, Wang Yên-ling, at Lhassa, memorialist finds that the Dalai Lama left Lhassa for Silupu hill on the 2nd of June, and that the Grain Commissioner sent the proper military escort, allowed by statute, to act as a guard of honour to the Buddhist Pontiff, a matter which memorialist now reports to the Throne as required by former decrees.—*Rescript: Noted.*

6th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

- (1) Let Shou Lao be appointed Assistant Supervisor of Instruction (to the Heir-Apparent).
- (2) Let Fêng Ching-chien be appointed Supervising Censor of the Metropolitan Circuit.
- (3) Let Ch'ing Yü be appointed Military Governor of Jehol.
- (4) With reference to the memorial of Li Hung-chang, Governor-general of Chih-li, in which he denounces the officials to whom the embankments and general care of the Yungting river are confided, for their failure in providing beforehand against the breaches made in that river recently, and also asking that he himself should be turned over to the Board for the determination of a penalty on account of his want of foresight; it is a fact that since the heat of summer has passed the country round about has been deluged by never-ceasing rains, insomuch that the Yungting river being swollen burst its banks causing great destruction to the people living in the vicinity of the river. Let therefore all the officials in question commencing with the Taotai of Yungting, Wan P'ei-ying, down to the deputy assistant magistrate of Wuts'inghsien, Chai Ting-shêng, be deprived of their ranks, but retained at their posts to redeem the error of want of foresight and care of the duties confided to them, and let also Li Hung-chang

be handed over to the Board of Works for a determination of a penalty, and it is our desire that all the officials in question make no delay in filling up the breaches that have been made in the Yungting river in order to prevent any future disasters. As to the villages and towns that have been thus flooded over, let the said Governor-General hasten to enquire as to what aid is required so that it may be given to the sufferers at once. Let the proper Board take note thereon.

(5) Since the commencement of summer until now, there has been a surfeit of disastrous weather, inasmuch that the destruction caused to life and property to the people of Shunt'ienfu and Chihli has been immense. For this reason our heart has been touched at the knowledge of so much misery and we therefore command, as an act of special grace, that 14,000 odd piculs of Fêngtien tribute grain and 50,000 piculs each of the Kiangsu and Kiangpêh tribute rice that have come up by the Grand Canal lately be apportioned to Li Hungchang for distribution to the suffering people. Let the freights be thus saved be also deducted and given to that high official to assist the rapid transmission of the relief to the places that require it, and let the said high official send deputies that may be depended upon to find out and report as to what spots require the most aid and what villages have suffered least. Let not this be made a chance of by yamên underlings for the filling of their own pockets at the expense of the poor sufferers, in order that the full extent of our wishes may be carried out in this respect. Let the proper Board also take note of this.

(6) A decree appointing a number of Censors to supervise the various granaries at Peking.

(7) Let the Censor Ling Ch'i be appointed Superintendent of Police for the Southern Division of the capital.

(8) Let the Censor En P'u be appointed Superintendent of Police for the Northern Division of the capital.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Imperial Majesty will receive the birthday congratulations of the Court and high Ministers at the Ch'ientsing Palace to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock precisely, and at 11 o'clock will enter the theatre to witness the performances of the Palace troupe.

7th August.

His Majesty holds no audience to-day.

A CHEHSIEN DENOUNCED

A postscript memorial by K'uei Chün, Governor of Kiangsu, denounces Wu Ping, district magistrate of Wutsing for want of foresight and care of the district under his charge. The memorialist had already memorialised the Throne on the matter in which the bank of a man named Liu Si-fu had been robbed and that the chehsien, Wu Ping, in whose district of Wutsing the robbery had taken place, was unable either to trace the robbers or recover the money that had been taken away by them. On this occasion memorialist in conjunction with the Governor-General of the Liangkiang provinces, Liu K'un-yi, had asked that the said Wu Ping, chehsien of Wutsinghsien, might be handed over to the proper Board for the determination of a penalty for being unable to capture the robbers or to recover the stolen property and received permission also to grant the said Wu Ping two months' time to do this. This probation has now passed and yet no sign of a capture or recovery of stolen property has been given by the magistrate in question, showing thereby a thorough want of self-respect and energy in doing the behests of his superiors. According to the report of the Provincial Treasurer and Judge of Kiangsu, they have recommended that the said Wu Ping be again denounced and turned over to the proper Board for a further penalty, and memorialist having consulted and gained the approval of Liu K'un-yi to the recommendation mentioned above, now suggests that Wu Ping be thus dealt with, and that, moreover, he be given further time to either capture the robbers or recover the stolen property.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the proper yamên take note.*

8th August.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Imperial Majesty will go to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock to worship at the temple of the Most High and that of Imperial Longevity.

DEATH OF THE MANCHU BRIGADE GENERAL OF CHING'OU.

Fêng Shêng, Tartar-General of Kiangning, states that on the 18th of July last he received a despatch from K'uei Chang, Colonel of the Left Wing of the Manchu garrison at Ching'ou, to the effect that Chih Chung, Brigade-General of Ching'ou, was taken ill during the early days of last June and gradually grew worse until midnight of the 17th of July when he succumbed to his illness. The

seals of office were immediately sealed up and placed in proper care, while the sons of the deceased, one a civil, and the other a military officer of Kiangsu, in conjunction with the Colonel before named made every arrangement for the funeral of the dead officer. The deceased Brigade-General Chih Chung commenced his public career as an officer fighting against the Taiping rebels and was present at the capture of the rebel capital Nanking. By energy and care in the duties of every office he filled, Chih Chung rose step by step until 1891, when impressed with the martial courage and talents of the man, memorialist in conjunction with Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Liang-kiang provinces, recommended him to the Throne as the man best fitted for the important post of Brigade-General of the Manchu garrison at Ching'ou.

The country has lost a valuable servant in Chih Chung and his death is a matter of great regret. As Ching'ou (Chinking) is an important post and a Brigade-General of that place has also to do with foreign relations, it is manifest that none but men of ability and trust should be recommended to fill the acting appointment thus left vacant by Chih Chung's death. The Brigade-General, Chih Ling, of Kiangning, should by right of precedence and seniority be the man to act as Brigade-General *pro tem.* of Ching'ou, but as the said Chih Ling is now busily occupied in supervising the daily drills of the soldiers under him, he cannot well be spared at the present moment. Memorialist, therefore, after due consideration has decided upon sending the Adjutant-General of the Red Banner, Colonel Wên Ying, who is both an officer of experience and considerable ability, to act as Brigade-General *pro tem.* of Ching'ou, awaiting an appointment by the Throne.—*Rescript: Decree already published.*

9th August.

THE FUKIEN DEFENCES.

Yang Ch'i-chên, a military officer of the premier button, and naval Commander-in-Chief of the province of Fukien, states that in a former memorial he had already reported his arrival at the Amoy headquarters from the North and that he had mentioned that as this was the time for the annual cruise along the Fukien sea-coast, he, the memorialist, would, after taking over the seals of office, and finishing off important routine business, proceed to sea for a cruise in order to see for himself the condition of all the naval posts

under his jurisdiction. Accordingly, on the 2nd of June last, memorialist took ship on board the sloop *Pupo* making that vessel his flagship, and accompanied by the whole fleet of the Amoy sea-going war-junks, started from headquarters for his annual cruise along the whole length of the Fukien coast which touches Wênchow in Chêkiang on the north and Namoa in Kuangtung on the south. Memorialist went into every nook and corner in the islands, bays, and coves along the seacoast and has to report everything quiet among the fishing population and that he found the coastguards fairly alert in their duties. In addition to this, memorialist made it a point to impress upon his subordinates along the coast the vital importance of promptly going to the aid of any vessels, without regard to nationality, that might require their help. In matters of weight, memorialist promises to consult with the Governor-General of the Min-Chê provinces, while in every-day affairs having relation to foreign intercourse he will consult with the Amoy Taotai whose *yamda* is in the same city as the headquarters. There are now several new forts of various sizes, armed with large and small guns of the newest type, guarding the harbour and port of Amoy, and memorialist well knowing that the proper management of the former is the most-important question of the hour will take every means to ensure the perfect drill and discipline of the gunners and troops who garrison the forts. The above is a general outline of what memorialist has seen and feels, and when he shall have finished his cruise he will memorialise in full the result of it.—*Rescript: Noted.*

THE TRANSPORT OF FIREARMS AND TREASURE INTO MANCHURIA.

Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, states that since the establishment in 1890 of the new order of things in the three Eastern or Manchurian provinces of Fêngtien, Kirin and Tsitsihar, by which these provinces have been placed on a military basis similar to the best armed provinces in China proper, there has been a constant demand by the authorities of the Peking Field force, *Sheng'hi Ying*, for cartage and transport of arms and treasure from Peking to the provinces outside the Great Wall at Shanhaikuan. At first the arms and treasure passing through the various departments and districts of Chihli were passed on from one city to another towards Shanhaikuan, but when the time came for passing the accounts for cartage and transport paid by the officials through whom these were

forwarded, there was some trouble as to what category they should come under. In 1890 memorialist suggested that the money paid for transport by these officials should be drawn from the proper land taxes, and he received the Imperial consent to the step. But when these accounts were presented to the memorialist, through the Provincial Treasurer, amounting to Tls 15,830 odd, and by the memorialist to the Board of War, requesting that Board to pass them, the Board refused to do so, on the ground that the charges were excessive, and that Government had been charged as much as three or four times the proper amount. They said that the Government generally allowed one tael to every cart that made the distance of one hundred *li*, and on that ground refused to pass the Chihli Provincial Treasurer's accounts on that head. On inquiry by the memorialist, the Provincial Treasurer, who had one time been Governor of Moukden, and therefore knows affairs beyond Shanhaikuan, replied that the charges outside the Great Wall, and which had already received the approval of the Fêngtien Board of War, were three taels and five candareens for each cart that made 100 *li*. As the transport of arms and ammunition and treasure from Peking to the three Manchurian provinces *via* Chihli towns was a matter of extra importance, it was inadvisable to follow the usual Government allowance of one tael to every 100 *li*, as carters as a rule become very lax and slow when they are paid in this way, and miscarriage might occur; the officials were afraid of incurring responsibility in this and preferred to pay the price usually paid by merchants and travellers *i.e.*, Tls 3.0.5 for every 100 *li*. This ensured proper care and quick despatch of these important goods of Government to their destination. Memorialist in view of this therefore requests that the Throne would order the proper Board to pass the accounts as already presented.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War take note.*

10th August.

THE COURT.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock to the Chungho Throne Hall to grant audience.

THE RAINS AT PEKING.

Fu K'un, Grand Secretary, and others, in answer to the Decree (already published) to examine into the number of houses that have collapsed through the rains and the lives that have been lost in the Banner

quarters within and around Peking now give the result of their investigations. As the capital is well packed with Bannermen within the Tartar city, and the houses they live in are of various dates, some quite new and others very old and dilapidated, it was natural that the constant rains of recent days should have undermined the latter so causing them to collapse, with loss of life and destruction of property. According to the reports from the Banner officers of the right and left wings, memorialists have been able to summarise the lists of casualties. Not counting isolated cases of collapsing houses, which were innumerable in the Tartar City, there are reported about 250 houses belonging to the right and left wings that fell in a line together, killing by their fall four men and women. The inundations at the five Banner barracks outside the Tartar City are bad, but going westwards from the middle barracks towards the Yungting and Yüan gates the aspect is still worse, a thousand and several hundred houses having collapsed in these places, with loss of nine lives. Memorialists, moreover, bearing in mind the anxiety of the Throne, have also given strict orders to the officers belonging to the various barracks and police stations to report at once any casualty that may occur in the meantime, in order that relief may be given promptly wherever needed.—*Rescript: Dec-ee already published.*

11th August.

THE COURT.

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor will proceed to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock precisely to the Ancestral Hall to worship, after which His Majesty will return to the Lakes where he will transact State affairs and receive the Ministers of the Court. Sung Sêng gives thanks for the honour that has been conferred on his son Shou Lao by his appointment as Junior Supervisor of Instruction (to the Heir Apparent).

12th August.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Siu Chin, a Prince of the fourth order, has obtained leave from the Throne to absent himself from Court twenty days. In answer to the memorial of the Board of Rites, His Majesty has appointed Sün Chih and Liang Pih to be Proctors of the Peking examinations.

A CHARITABLE OFFICIAL.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shan-tung, reports that Yuan Kung-hung, an official of the third brevet button and expectant prefect of Chêkiang, a native of Chungjênhsien,

Kiangsi, in obedience to the commands of his parents has sent to the Shantung Board of Relief, 1,000 suits of cotton wadded clothing, valued at Tls. 1,000, for the sufferers from the Yellow River inundations. As by a former Decree promulgated in the provinces any person or persons giving such sums or more to charitable objects are entitled, if they should ask for it, to a tablet with the Imperial Seal, bearing under it the inscription "He feels pleasure in good deeds and delights in charity" which shall be presented to the donors by Edict, and as the expectant perfect Yuan Kung-hung, has shown a commendable spirit of filial piety and charity by his gift of clothing, memorialist now requests that the Imperial recognition may be granted in this way to the said prefect and the tablet sent to his home as an encouragement to others. —*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the Board of Rites take note.*

THE FOOCHOW PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS.

T'an Chung-lin, Governor-General of the Minché provinces, states that it is the custom during the Provincial examinations for the degree of *Chujên* for the Governor of the province to enter the Examination Halls as Proctor. As the Governor of Fukiên has now been transferred to the island of Formosa, it follows that by rights memorialist should go instead. But as the memorialist has, in the absence of a Governor, to do the double duties of Governor-General and Governor at the same time, he finds his hands fully occupied, and thinks that he has no leisure to do any extra work away from his own *yamên*. He therefore suggests that the Imperial High Commissioner sent down from Peking on this special occasion, which is in honour of the Imperial Birthday next year, should also act as Proctor in his place and begs that he himself should be excused from being shut up in the Examination Halls during the present competitions. —*Rescript: Let it be as requested, and let the Board of Rites take note.*

13th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let Lin Shao-nien be appointed assistant Censor of the Metropolitan Police Circuit.

(2) With reference to the memorial of P'u Ku, Vice-President of the Court of Supervision, and other Censors requesting us to promulgate a Decree enjoining upon the officials in charge of the rice gruel stations and the officials at the granaries

to dispense clean rice to the famine sufferers, these officials should bear in mind that our charity is given to prolong the lives of our people, and that the dispensation of unclean and hurtful grain is at variance with our intentions and liable to be severely punished. The Vice-President at the Granaries is therefore strictly to be wideawake and see to it that the Superintendents of the Granaries dispense clean and wholesome rice to the gruel stations, and if he should find that the rice is such as is unfit to be boiled, let him forthwith report the delinquent officials in charge to us so that they may be turned over to the Board of Punishments for condign punishment, in order that our people may not be harmed by the rascality of avaricious subordinates. The Censors in question also request that the Governor-General of Chihli should notify the Governor of Shuntienfu, how much of the 14,400 piculs of Fêng'tien tribute grain ordered for distribution in a previous decree should be given to the people of Shuntienfu and Yungtingfu; let Li Hung-chang at once attend to the matter and notify Sün Chianei, and let the grain for that purpose be sent immediately to the latter in order that it may be distributed at once to the deputies in charge of the various rice gruel stations.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Tsao Shu-jao, Provincial Judge of Chékiang, asks for the Imperial instructions before proceeding to his post. The Prince of Shuh, the Dukes of Ling and K'uei and four others ask for leave of ten days to absent themselves from Court.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience to-day to Sün Chih, Ch'ung Li and Tsao Shu-jao, at the Grand Council Chamber.

No other news of interest.

14th August.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty, in answer to the memorial of the Court of Censors, has appointed the Censor Yi Nien to have special charge of the supervision over the distribution of relief to the refugees from the inundated districts. Ula-shi-ch'ung-a having completed his leave of absence has returned to his duties. The Prince of Jui, the Earl of Chao and Wên Hsi have obtained ten days' leave of absence from Court.

DISTRIBUTION OF BAD RICE TO REFUGEES.

P'u Ku, Vice President of the Court of Supervision, and his colleagues state that in 1890 it was often found to be the case that the rice sent by the authorities at the Peking granaries for distribution to refugees turned out to be black and filthy, and utterly unfit for food, so that the officials and Censors in charge of the rice gruel stations were often compelled to return the grain as utterly useless. As the disaster this year compared with that of 1890 is much severer, and the Imperial bounty all the more required, the memorialists fear that the granary officials might play the same tricks as happened in 1890 and hence present this paper, praying that the Throne will promulgate a Decree warning the officials connected with distributing relief to refugees, to be careful and send none but clean and eatable rice to the gruel-stations.—*Rescript: Decree already published.*

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS IN ANHUI.

Shên Ping-ch'ên, Governor of Anhui, reports the death of Wu Yung-shao, Colonel of the Right Battalion of disciplined troops stationed in North Anhui, and the appointment in his place of Hsü Ch'üan-hsi, an officer holding the rank of a Brigadier-General by brevet. The post of Colonel of the Right Battalion of the disciplined troops in the capital (Nganking) left vacant by Hsü Ch'üan-hsi, the memorialist proposes to give to the Liangkiang expectant Lieutenant-Colonel Shên Chêng-ch'ing.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War take note.*

15th August.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Huang Yü-ên, Provincial Treasurer of Fukien, asks for the Imperial instructions before proceeding to his post. Chiang Kuei-t'i, Brigadier-General of the Lingyuan Military Circuit in Yünnan, asks for the Imperial instructions before proceeding to his post. The newly promoted prefect Li Shao-fên is ordered to prepare for presentation to the Throne to-day.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience to-day in the Grand Council Chamber to Huang Yü-ên, Chiang Kuei-t'i and Li Shao-fên.

No other news of interest.

16th August.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

(1) Let Ching Sing be appointed Administrator of the duties connected with the Manchu Rifle Battalions.

(2) We regret to learn of the death by sickness of Wên Siu, Captain-General of the Mongolian Bordered-Red Banner, and Administrator of the Manchu Rifle Battalions. He served his country well in every station he was appointed to since joining the service, and it is our desire that the proper Board should see to it that all delinquencies marked against his name should be erased from the records. Let also the proper *yamên* report to us the amount of Government grant that should be given to the family of the deceased on this occasion.

THE COURT.

His Majesty give audience to-day in the Grand Council Chamber to the husband of the Eighth Imperial Princess and to Yi Nion, Supervising Censor of the famine distribution stations in the Metropolitan prefecture.

THE PEIYANG DEFENCES.

A postscript memorial by Sung Tsün, Governor of Chêkiang, reports the despatch of the third instalment of Tls. 40,000 out of the Tls. 400,000 which at the instance of the Board of Admiralty has been ordered to be contributed by the Province of Chêkiang for the year 1893. This money has been drawn from the *likin* revenues and has been sent on to the Governor-General of Chihli, at Tientsin, for the military and naval defences of the Peiyang coast.—*Rescript: Let the proper yamên take note.*

17th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Li Ching-hsi is appointed Salt Comptroller and Intendant of the Ch'ang Pao Circuit.

(2) With reference to the memorial of the authorities at the Tungchow Granaries requesting a further supply of rice for the gruel stations at the city, as the people of the prefecture are suffering sadly from the destructive rains of recent days, let 1,000 piculs of the Fêngtien grain be given for distribution, and when the Kiangsu tribute boats arrive through the Grand Canal let 2,000 piculs be taken out for the same purpose.

(3) Let En Yü and Fên Ch'ê be appointed Administrators of the Peking Field Force Bureau.

(4) Let Sung Kuei be appointed Deputy Captain-General of the Bordered-Red Mongol Banner.

(5) Let Fu Shêng, Deputy Captain-General of the Left Wing, and Fêng Shên, Deputy Captain-General of the Right Wing, go as

Superintendents of the troops guarding the Inner barrier of the examination halls.

(6) K'ai T'ai, Ch'en Hsio-fên, Ching Shan, Ming Hsiu, Siang P'u, Fu Chên, K'ô Ching En P'u, Yung Shan and Yi Kung are appointed searchers at the examinations.

(7) Ngai Lien and Ch'ang Ling are appointed examiners of the Manchu Student Interpreters.

(8) Ho Fu and P'ang Sih are appointed Proctors and U-erh-Ch'ing-ngêh and Hu Hui-shing markers of the present examinations.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience in the Grand Council Chamber to-day to Fêng Ming and Hsü Ying-k'uei. Ching Sing gave thanks for being appointed Administrator of the Manchu Rifle Battalions of the Peking Field Force.

A CHARITABLE GENERAL.

Yang Ch'ang-tsiin, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, and Governor-General of Shensi, Kansu and the New Dominion, states that according to the petition of the chehsien of Changyê and the entire literary community of the department of Kanchou, the present P'itsu or Commander-in-Chief of Kanchou, Chou Ta-wu, ever since his arrival at that city nineteen years ago associated himself not only with everything that might conduce towards the good government and welfare of his soldiers and the people under him, but also in all matters that affected the progress of literature in the province of Kansu. This province has suffered much from the disasters of war, during the Mohammedan rebellion, and most of the colleges and monuments of literature were destroyed by the rebels in their mad acts of vandalism. But General Chou Ta-wu as soon as he arrived in Kansu sympathized with the straits the *litterati* and especially the poorer students experienced from the want of standard books of reference in the country, and so arranged about supplying Kanchou with a library and college, for indigent scholars especially. Hence he expended over Tis. 2,000 in valuable books of reference in history, the arts, and classics, purchased from the province of Hupeh, as well as building a special library for them. As all such deeds come under the category of charity towards the masses, the petition prays that memorialist should bring the matter to the notice of the Throne and asks that the customary tablet bearing the inscription "He delighted

in good deeds and took pleasure in charity" should be decreed to be given to the said General for his public-spiritedness, and anxiety for the welfare of his people. Having verified the statements made in the petition memorialist now prays that the Imperial recognition may be granted to General Chou Ta-wu and the tablet requested given him to hang up in his home as an example to others.—*Rescript: Let it be so, and let the Board of Rites take note.*

18th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of Yü Lü, Military Governor of Fêngtien, requesting us to appoint a day for the commencement of work on the repairs to the Ancestral Throne Hall for the Regulation of Government, at Moukden, let the Imperial Board of Astronomy pick out a lucky day for the purpose and let Yü Lü and his colleague the Assistant Military Governor Fêng Sin go reverently to work on the day to be appointed by the Astronomical Board for the work in hand, in accordance with the plans already presented to us.

(2) With reference to the memorial of Yü Lü, requesting us to appoint a day during the present month for the commencement of the work on the repairs to be made on the Ancestral Mausolea of Yung-ling and Chao-ling, at Moukden, let the Imperial Board of Astronomy select a lucky day for the purpose and let Yü Lü and his colleague Fêng Sin reverently set to work on the day appointed in accordance with the plans already presented to us.

(3) We regret to learn through Liu K'un-yi of the death of our faithful servant, the Brigadier-General of Kuachou, Wu Chia-pang, at his post at Kuachou. The deceased officer had had considerable experience in the service of his country having been in no less than over a hundred battles, having commenced his career in the fifties. He is now dead and merits the full extent of our sympathies for his family. Let the grant of a full-fledged Provincial Commander-in-Chief who has died at his post be given to his family as a special act of grace from us, and let his deeds be recorded in the history of the country by the Imperial Historiographers. Let also his tablet be placed in the temple dedicated to the late P'êng Yü-lin, now at the deceased officer's home in Hunan, as well as in the temple dedicated for the purpose at Ts'aishichi in the province of Anhui, as a mark of his

master's appreciation of a faithful and brave servant.—*Let the proper yamén also take note.*

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ching Sing and En Yü.

ROBBERY OF A DISTRICT MAGISTRATE'S SEAL.

The memorial of Fu Yün, an officer holding the brevet rank of a President of a Board and Governor of Shantung, reports as follows:—The province of Shantung is of considerable extent, and the disposition of the people, especially those inhabiting the country west of the capital, Tsinanfu, is peculiarly addicted to rapine and plunder. Although memorialist in conjunction with the Provincial Judge has always taken precautionary measures, in pressing upon the magistrates and military officers in the various departments and districts to exercise special care over the safety of their people, and has annually captured a number of these desperate characters and summarily decapitated them, yet, notwithstanding this, the spirit of the people is such that it is impossible to prevent occasional deeds of rapine and robbery. On the 21st of July of the present year while memorialist was at Lank'ou inspecting the Yellow River embankments, he received despatches from Ts'ao Yung, chehsien of Singhsien, to the effect that while that official was absent from his quarters in the country, inspecting the police arrangements of the various wards and villages and meanwhile arresting any desperate characters that might be reported to him, on the night of the 11th of the same month, just before his return to the city of Singhsien, about twenty mounted banditti managed to get inside the city walls and to force their way into the magisterial quarters, firing off guns to intimidate the people there, and having threatened the seal-keeper on pain of death if he refused, succeeded in getting away with the official seal of the Singhsien magistracy, besides a quantity of plunder obtained from the *yamén* inmates and the neighbouring dwelling house. The reason given for the easy access of banditti into the city of Singhsien and into the *yamén* was that this city having during the Taiping and Nienfei rebellions suffered considerably, the city walls owing to the poverty of the place have never been repaired and hence now stand in a most dilapidated and crumbling condition. Again the *yamén* proper of the chehsien was at the time destroyed by the rebels, and, for the same reason, has

never been rebuilt since, hence successive magistrates have been compelled to rent the dwelling houses of the people as a temporary *yamén*, and for this reason were unable to resist an attack of the robbers. As soon as the visit of the banditti became known to the military officer commanding in the district, he came at once to attack the ruffians and in the fight that ensued both sides suffered a little, while a robber was captured and secured, although the robbers made desperate attempts at re-taking the man. Fortunately the chehsien, Ts'ao Yung, was himself returning by this time and had got near the city walls of Singhsien, and the robbers being thus taken in front and rear, a general retreat was made by them, and the night being very dark they succeeded in escaping with the loss of one man. The evidence of this man tended to show that the leader of the banditti entertained enmity against the chehsien for some punishment he had received at the latter's hands before, and so he organised the expedition with the sole purpose of ruining the chehsien who would be deprived of rank and office if he lost his seal of office. As the chehsien in question has been the magistrate of Singhsien and other cities for many years and has always borne an excellent reputation for honesty and probity, and as this was a case of revenge on the part of a well-known bandit, memorialist, in conjunction with the Provincial Treasurer and Judge, thinks there are some extenuating circumstances in this case, especially since the city walls are in a dilapidated and crumbling condition and the *yamén* simply common houses of the people and unsuitable to resist an attack. Still some sort of punishment must be given him for being taken unawares, and so the memorialist requests that the said chehsien, Ts'ao Yung, and the captain of the district, Wu Ts'ing-chieh, be simply deprived of their buttons but retained in office and given one month's time to capture the ringleader of the robbers and recover the seal of office. Furthermore that the Throne will command the Board of Rites to make a new seal, pending which memorialist has already ordered a wooden seal to be cut for temporary purposes.—*Re-script: Let it be so and let the proper Board take note.*

19th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ang Ch'ih and Kó Fêng-shih are appointed Special Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Shantung, respectively.

(2) Hsüeh Pao-ch'êng and Kao Tan are appointed Special Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Shansi, respectively.

(3) Wang Yi-yung and Li Kuei-lin are appointed Special Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Honan, respectively.

THE COURT.

His Majesty the Emperor will proceed to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock to the Chien Fu Palace to pay his respects to H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager, after which His Majesty will return to the Summer Palace at the Lakes. His Majesty gave audience to-day in the Grand Council Chamber to the newly-appointed Hunan Taotai Li Ching-hsi, and to Chang Ying-huan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Pu Ku, Junior President of the Grand Court of Revision, and his colleagues having been appointed Supervisors of the rice-gruel stations, established in the metropolis and suburbs for the relief of the flood sufferers, asked for instructions before proceeding on their mission. Li Ching-hsi, newly-appointed Taotai in Hunan gave thanks for his appointment. The Grand Secretary Ngêh-la-ho-pu gave thanks for the honour done to his son by his appointment as an Under-Secretary in one of the Boards.

THE NEW DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF KIANGNING, NANKING.

A joint postscript memorial by Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Liaugkiang provinces, the Director-General of grain transport and the Provincial Treasurer and Judge of Kiangsu, states that as the present district magistrate of Kiangning, Lan Mi-ching, is to be transferred to some other post, the important incumbency he has filled should be immediately replaced by some worthy officer and, for this purpose, they have decided to recommend Tsao Shou-chang acting magistrate of T'ungshanhsien, whose place in turn should be filled by the new acting magistrate of Shangyuanhsien, Nanking, the chehsien T'ao Tsai-ming.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

MOVEMENTS OF THE ADMIRAL OF THE YANGTZE.

Wu Ta-ch'êng, Governor of Hunan, in a postscript memorial states that the duty of the Admiral of the Yangtze, in this case the hereditary noble of the 5th order, Huang Yi-shêng, is to make half the year his headquarters on the Upper Yangtze and the other half-year on the Lower

Yangtze. He started on the 18th of April of this year from Kiangning headquarters to make his tour of inspection up the river commencing with Kuachou, T'ai pingfu, and the naval garrisons bordering the Poyang Lake, making a careful inspection of the condition of every battalion and fort on his route, until on the 2nd of July he arrived at Changsha, memorialist's capital, and with memorialist had a close consultation on the naval defences of the province. Having finished his business at Changsha, Huang Yi-shêng now intends to start down the river again, and as the memorialist is required to report to the Throne the date of that officer's arrival at Changsha, he does so now in conjunction with the said Admiral whose report is affixed to this memorial.—*Rescript: Noted.*

20th August.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience in the Grand Council Chamber this morning to the high Minister K'un Kang.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty, in response to the memorial of the Board of Rites, has appointed the Prince of Shuh, I Kung, Husband of an Imperial Princess, and eighteen other high officials of Manchu and Chinese descent to be searchers of the persons and outfit of the competitors in the coming examinations for the *chujên* degree to be held soon at the capital. The Duke of Láng having completed his leave, reports his return to his Court duties. Ch'ang Sui, humbly begs to give thanks for his appointment as Chief Imperial Examiner of the coming Provincial Examinations in Shantung.

No news of interest.

21st August.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hsü Yung-yi and Shou Ying.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Chêng and his colleagues report their return from duty at the examinations of the Manchu translating students. Prince Ying of the 3rd order and the Duke of Chi having completed their leaves of absence, report their return to their Court duties.

PEIYANG PROMOTIONS.

Li Hung-chang, Senior Grand Secretary, Earl of the 1st order, Governor-General of Chihli, Superintendent of Trade for the Peiyang, etc., reports that in accordance

with the regulations governing the recommendations for the promotion of or giving of honours to the officials belonging to the P. i. y. ng Bureau of Foreign Affairs, a period of three years must be completed before another recommendation to the Throne could be made. This period of probation having now expired, memorialist, at the instance of Shêng Hsüan-huai, Customs Taotai of Tientsin who is *ex officio* the Chief Commissioner of the Peiyang Bureau of Foreign Affairs, now recommends that the 3rd class or Unattached Taotai bearing the brevet button of the second rank, Wu Ping-fang (formerly Ng Choy, barrister-at-law at Ho'kong) and the expectant Taotai Lo Fêng-loh (Naval Secretary to Li Hung-chang) should be honoured by being given the post-humous first rank title in favour of their parents; and that Chu Pao-k'u-i (a student from the United States) and Lo Hsi-loh, expectant chehsien of Chihli and Kiangsu respectively, should be promoted to be independent sub-prefects as soon as they shall have filled the office of chehsien. These four officers have proved themselves well acquainted with foreign literature, customs and affairs, and have, moreover, shown much energy and patience in whatever matters devolved upon their supervision.—*Receipt: Noted.*

22nd August.

THE COURT.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock to the Chien Fu Temple to pay his obeisance to the Sacred Likenesses, after which His Majesty will proceed to the Lakes. His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hsi Ching and A-K'o-tan-p'u.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Kung gave thanks to His Majesty for the Imperial Gift of birds' nests the day before. Fu Shun-p'u and his colleagues report the completion of their duties as Preservers of Order at the examinations of the Manchu translating students.

REPAIRING THE YUNGTING RIVER EMBANKMENTS.

Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, etc., reports that owing to the breaches recently made in the embankments of the Yungting river by the swollen rains, and deeming it of the greatest importance to have some one in high authority and well-acquainted with river works on the spot, on account of the widespread floods occasioned thereby, he has sent for the purpose Wan Ying-p'ei, Taotai of Yung-

tingho. This officer who has had much experience in such matters will direct all the necessary works, having as his assistants the local officials whose districts run along the river line on both banks. As for the people who have suffered from these floods, memorialist has already ordered the authorities in charge of the Chihli famine fund to send trustworthy deputies at once, who have been directed to report on the various degrees of suffering in the different districts so that the proper amount of relief might be sent on immediately.—*Receipt: Noted.*

23rd August.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Hsü Chih-ching is transferred to be Senior Librarian, and Ts'ui Kuo-yin Junior Librarian, of the Imperial College of Inscriptions.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to K'un Kang.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

At the request of the Board of Works His Majesty has appointed K'un Kang and three others to inspect and report on the amount that should be required for the reparation of the city walls of the Inner and Outer "Cities."

Sung K'un, Provincial Treasurer of Kueichow, asks instructions before leaving Peking for his post.

THE INUNDATIONS IN CHIH LI.

Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, states that the damage done to the various prefectures of the province by the floods since the summer rains is so far beyond all expectation and calculation that he greatly fears that the resources now in his hands and expected to come from the other provinces will be insufficient for any complete provision of relief to the sufferers under his jurisdiction. His Majesty is aware that last spring the memorialist had already asked permission to close the offices for the purchase of rank which had been established by Imperial Edict throughout the empire, on the ground that the province had somewhat recovered from the effects of the last famine and on this account there was no need of any further calls on the purses of the people. But the appalling results of the recent reports that have come to hand about the distress in the flooded prefectures, which number a total of thirty odd departments and districts, are so great that memorialist has no

other resort but to ask for the Imperial sanction for the re-opening of the offices for the purchase of rank for a period of one year more. In this way, another source of collecting money for the relief of the inundation sufferers this year will be added to that of other methods now in operation, when it is to be hoped that enough money will be collected for the purposes in view.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the Board of Revenue also take note.*

24th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let Chang Ch'i-kuang be transferred to the Brigadier-Generalship of Wenchow and Chou Ching-pang transferred to that of the Pescadores.

(2) Let Han Ching-ch'ang be transferred to the Brigadier-Generalship of Fushan in the province of Kiangnan and Ch'en Hai-p'eng to that of Suiching in the province of Hunan.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Han Ching-ch'ang newly appointed Brigadier-General of Fushan, and to Ching Sing, Commissioner of the Peking Field Force.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Han Ching-ch'ang, Brigadier-General of Fushan, Kiangnan, being about to proceed to his post, asks for the Imperial Instructions. The Prince of Yung and the Marquis of Li report their return to Court duties after leave of absence. The Prince of Shih asks for five days' extra leave of absence from Court, and the Earl of Chao twenty days' extra.

No other news of interest.

25th August.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

A decree appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

THE COURT.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock to the Ancestral Shrines to pay obeisance, after which the Court will return to the Lakes.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Chuang, the Marquis of Chêng and the Minister Hua Shang-a having completed their leaves of absence, report their return to Court duties.

A COMPARISON OF THE HUPEH LAND AND GRAIN TAXES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

T'an Chi-hsun, an officer of the Premier button and Governor of Hupeh, reports that in accordance with instructions promulgated by the Peking Board of Revenue to send up at the end of every three years a comparative table of the land and grain taxes of the province for the past three years, he now sends up the required report comparing the receipts for the years 1889, 1890, and 1891 with the year just passed—1892. According to the report of the Provincial Treasurer of Hupeh, the grain and land taxes for that province for the year 1892 should have been Tls. 1,107,574, odd; but from this must be deducted various amounts which have not been collected owing to famine or flood in the various districts of Hupeh which brings the total amount of taxes received at the end of the year under review to Tls. 912,269 odd or about a little over ninety-two per cent. of the whole. Notwithstanding this deduction, a comparison of the tables of receipts of the past three years shows that this sum is Tls. 86,519.67 more than in 1889; Tls. 50,854.56 more than in 1890; and Tls. 15,047.46 more than in 1891. In addition to this memorial, the memorialist has, according to the usual custom, also sent a comparative table of the above results to the Board of Revenue.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

FUKIEN CONTRIBUTION TO KANSU MILITARY EXPENSES.

Hsi Yuan, Tartar-General of Foochow, Superintendent of Customs, and a hereditary Marquis of the 1st degree, in a postscript memorial states that in accordance with instructions received through the Grand Council on the 26th of September, 1892, requiring the Foochow Customs to supply the military exchequer of the province of Kansu, which includes the New Dominion, with Tls. 200,000, owing to the urgent need of money now required in the latter named province in 1893, in which the memorialist was allowed to send the money in three instalments, the memorialist now begs to give due notice that he has now sent by certain Chinese banks the second instalment of Tls. 60,000 to the Provincial Treasurer of Kansu. The three instalments in question were to be sent on from Foochow during the following periods: memorialist was commanded to send the first instalment of Tls. 60,000 at any time beginning from the date of the Grand Council despatch above named, and ending

on the 16th of February, 1893; the second instalment of a like sum was to be sent at any time between the 17th of February, 1893, and the 13th of June of the same year; while the third instalment of Tls. 80,000 was to be delivered at any time after the 14th of June up to the 7th of November, 1893. Should there be any delay in sending these instalments, owing to the urgency of the matter, the Board of Revenue was commanded to denounce the officials concerned in the dilatoriness. On the other hand, however, the Governor-General of Kansu was to recommend to the Imperial favour these officials in the event of their sending the contributions within the prescribed periods. So far memorialist was able to send the first instalment in time to Kansu, due acknowledgment of which has been already received by the Throne; but owing to the badness of the year in Foochow, the Customs authorities were unable to send the second instalment within the prescribed period, and so memorialist did on the 10th of June last implore the Imperial Grace to be allowed further time to send the second instalment, promising to be prompt so far as the third or last instalment of Tls. 80,000 was concerned. This was granted by Rescript; and now having made extra exertions by borrowing part of the required sum from the Chinese banks at Foochow, memorialist has been able to get together the Tls. 60,000 which he arranged and sent through the said banks on the 3rd of August instant, to be delivered to the Provincial Treasurer of Kansu at Lanchow.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

26th August.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Ch'ang Lin and Ts'ing Jui are appointed Chief Proof-readers of the Manchu department of the Collected Institutes of the dynasty.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Huang Hui-ying and Yü Lien-yuan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Yi Nien gave thanks for the appointment of his son to a civil rank. Ch'en Shih-ping gave thanks for his appointment as an expectant Taotai of Kuangtung.

ARREST OF CRIMINALS BY THE PEKING GENDARMERIE.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Peking Gendarmerie reports that he has succeeded in arresting eighty-two gamblers at the

head of which is a man named Hsü Kuang-liang. The gendarmes also managed to arrest a eunuch named Sün Ch'ang-hsiang, on another occasion, who when brought before the tribunal became extremely violent and tore down the arms' stand in the judgment hall in his attempt to get hold of a weapon.—*Rescript: Let them all be turned over to the Board of Punishments for examination.*

THE EX-PROVINCIAL TREASURER OF SHANTUNG.

T'an Chi-hsün, Governor of Hupeh, states that he has received a memorandum from Wang Yü-tsoo, a native of the district of Huangkanghsien, Hupeh, and a Metropolitan graduate, who having repeatedly received the Imperial bounty, in process of time became Provincial Treasurer of Shantung, at which post he was informed in 1890 of the death of his parent and had accordingly to retire from office and go into mourning. The prescribed twenty-seven months having now expired the said Wang Yü-tsoo has given notice to the memorialist that he has doffed his mourning attire and now intends to go up to Peking to report for service.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

27th August.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow at 6 o'clock to sacrifice at the Ancestral Sacrificial Court and the Court of Imperial Longevity, after which His Majesty will return to the Lakes. His Majesty gave audience in the Grand Council Chamber this morning to Chang Ying-huan and Pao Nien.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Ch'ang Lin and Ts'ing Jui gave thanks for their appointments as Chief Proof-readers of the Manchu department of the Collected Institutes of the dynasty. Pao Nien, newly appointed Manchu Brigade-General of Ching'ou (Chinkiang) being ready to start for the post asked for instructions. The Duke of Ch'eng asks for ten days' leave of absence from Court, and the Marquis of Sing asked for ten days' extra leave of absence.

No other news of interest.

28th August.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

In response to the memorial of the Grand Court of Sacrificial Worship, the following appointments are made:—

(1) 12th of September next: Tsai Hsün is appointed Chief Worshipper at the Shrine of the Temple of the God of Literature (Wench'ang Ti-chün Miao), while P'u

Shan is commanded to sacrifice at the Inner Courts of the same Temple.

(2) 16th of September next: Yung Kuei is commanded to offer sacrifices at the temple of Beneficent Relief and the Temple of the River God.

(3) The Grand Secretary Fu K'un is commanded to proceed on the same day to sacrifice at the Shrine of the Dragon King of Lake K'unming.

(4) 17th of September: Lin Shu is commanded to sacrifice at the Temple of the First Preceptor K'ung-tze (Confucius), while two members of the Hanlin Academy are commanded to sacrifice at the Side Courts of the same temple. The sacrifices at the Shrine of the Eminent Sages is to be attended to by Sa Lien.

(5) 18th of September: His Majesty has graciously signified it to be his intention to proceed in person to the Dynastic Temple of the present Imperial House to offer sacrifice there.

(6) 19th of September: K'ai T'ai, Prince of Li, is commanded to sacrifice at the Temple of *K'uan Ti* (Mars) and Li Tuan-yü is ordered to sacrifice at the Inner Shrines of the same Temple.

(7) 23rd of September: P'u Ching is commanded to sacrifice at the Temple of the Moon in honour of the Autumnal Equinox, while Ch'ang Lin is commanded to assist at the Minor Courts of the same Temple.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Hung Chün, ex Minister to Germany, Russia, Austria, and Holland, Minister of the Tsungli Yamèn, and Vice President of the Board of War, asks for fifteen days extra leave of absence from his duties, on account of illness. His Majesty has appointed the following officers of the Imperial Household Guard to search the Manchu student candidates at the brick gate: Ch'ò Lin-pa-pu, Chò Ling-a, Hò Lün-t'ai and Wén P'ò. In answer to the memorial of the Board of Rites, His Majesty has appointed as searchers for the same purpose the Prince of Jui, K'un-kang and eight others.

THE COLLECTED INSTITUTES OF THE PRESENT DYNASTY.

Ngèh Lê-ho-pu, Grand Secretary and President of the Board editing the collected Institutes of the dynasty states that since the work begun by his Board for a revised edition of the collected institutes of the T'ai-sing dynasty, he and his colleagues have made considerable progress in editing the Chinese version of the work, and the Manchu version might also be said to have suc-

cessively arrived at an encouraging stage, and is being now written out in "proper" characters (*chên-tse*). But as the number of volumes is very considerable it is exceedingly necessary for the sake of accuracy to appoint some officers for the special purpose of tallying the proofs. Memorialist and his colleagues, therefore, bearing this in mind have decided to memorialise in this instance asking the Throne to appoint a couple of Manchu *chün shih* or Metropolitan graduates in Manchu literature, for the purpose in view, in order to prevent any risk of error being made in this language—*Rescript: Decree already published.*

PROMOTION ASKED FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, states that in accordance with the instructions of the Tsungli Yamèn, ordering the officials having jurisdiction along the seacoast and those at the head of the life saving stations along the coast, to be ever on the look out to render assistance to shipwrecked people, be they native or foreign; irrespective of nationality, and offering rewards to the energetic who have saved at least thirty lives and punishment to the indifferent, the memorialist now desires to bring to the notice of the Throne the following circumstance and asks that the promotions named in the memorial may be granted the energetic officers concerned. On the 26th of June, 1892, the China Merchant's Steam Navigation Co.'s steamer *Hsinsheng* while sailing past Heilu-tiao or Black Donkey island, to the north-west of the city of Yungch'eng, during a thick fog, came across some sunken rocks and having a hole made in her was in immediate danger of sinking. The passengers and sailors hurried to the ship's boats for safety on account of which many were dashed into the sea. Fortunately for the zeal and energy of the expectant Chehsien Ch'eng Chih-ch'ang then acting magistrate of Yungch'eng; Ch'ang F'ing-liang, Capt. Commanding the Naval forces of Yungch'eng district; and the expectant sub-magistrate Chiang K'ai-t'ai, head of the life saving station there, who hurried to the rescue of the shipwrecked people, at the head of their soldiers and runners, they succeeded in saving thirty-nine men belonging to the crew of the *Hsinsheng*, including the European Captain and officers, and fifty-four of the passengers on board that steamer. The three officials abovenamed also employed a number of divers who within fifty days, with considerable difficulty

managed to save at various times the sunken cargo valued at over Tls. 20,000, all of which was sold out and returned into the hands of the China Merchants Company. All this was at various times reported to the memorialist who kept a record of these officials' doings. When one comes to think of the great heat at the time borne by these officers and their men, and that regardless of comfort they remained amongst breakers and huge waves directing their men with unflagging zeal and holding watchful care over the shipwrecked property day and night for so long a time, so that nothing that could be helped was lost or stolen, the memorialist cannot but acknowledge that these officials have distinguished themselves by extra zeal and energy, and that they really deserve the rewards due them according to the Taungli Yamên regulations above-named, and that, moreover, the rewards should be accorded to them in order to encourage the emulation of others. Memorialist therefore, at the recommendation of the acting Intendant of the Têng-lai-ts'ing, Li Chên-yung, now requests that the former acting district magistrate of Yungch'ênghsien, the expectant magistrate Chêng Chih-ch'ang, be made an independent sub-prefect, after he shall have filled the post of *de facto* district magistrate, with the privilege of wearing beforehand the button (crystal) of a sub-prefect; that the Chihli expectant sub-magistrate, Chiang K'ai-tai, head of the life saving station, may be made a full district magistrate with the brevet button of a sub-prefect, without the necessity of filling a *de facto* sub-magistracy, and that the Captain in command of the Yungch'ênghsien Naval forces should be made an expectant Commodore for their services in the present instance. The Imperial bounty is therefore now requested in this matter, and the memorialist also takes the opportunity of sending to the Boards of Civil Appointments and War the official antecedents (*tü-tieh*) of the officials named in the present memorial. This memorial has also received the approbation and bears the name of Li Hung-chang, Peiyang Superintendent of Trade.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the yamên concerned take note.*

29th August.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Tê Hsing, Governor of Kiangsi (re-appointed), Ch'ing Yü, newly-appointed Military Governor of Jehol, Chihli, and Ch'ing Lin, newly-

appointed Superintendent of the Imperial silk looms at Soochow, Kiangsu.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Shuh and Tê Lung, having completed their leave of absence, report their return to Court duties. Tê Hsing, Governor of Kiangsi, Ching Yü, Military Governor of Jehol, and Ch'ing Ling, Superintendent of the Imperial silk looms at Soochow, being now ready to depart for their respective posts, ask for the Imperial instructions.

THE ACTING PROVINCIAL TREASURER OF HONAN.

Yü K'uan, Governor of Honan, reports that owing to the present Provincial Treasurer of Honan having been ordered to proceed to the capital for an Audience with His Majesty, the post of Treasurer has become vacant, and this on account of its importance should be immediately filled by an acting appointment. For this purpose, therefore, the memorialist has fixed upon Ch'ang Show, the present Provincial Judge of Honan, as one satisfactory in every respect to fill the vacancy. The post of Judge being thus left vacant memorialist has ordered the Intendant of the K'ai-kuei-ch'ên-hsü circuit, Kuei Lin, to fill it while the Intendancy has been temporarily given to the expectant Taotai, Hsueh Fu-nien (brother of Hsueh Fu-ch'ên, at present Chinese Minister to the Courts of Great Britain and France).—*Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

30th August.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

With reference to the memorial of Liu Ping-chang, Governor-General of Szechuan, who denounces the gaolwarden of the district of Ch'engch'ihhsien for lack of vigilance and care of the prisoners under his care and allowing an important prisoner to escape, we command that the gaolwarden, Wang Wên-shün, be forthwith degraded and let the Governor-General himself try the man and his subordinate gaolers to see whether there have been any attempts at bribing the men to loosen the prisoner Li Ch'ao-chün's bonds so as to favour his escape from prison, and if so, let them be punished according to the statutes governing such cases. Furthermore, although it has been proved that the district magistrate of Ch'engch'ihhsien, Shên Ch'êng, was absent on business from the city at the time, still he cannot be held to be entirely free from blame, as

it is a case of want of forethought and care on his part. Let this chehsien, Shên Ch'êng, therefore be turned over to the Board of Punishments for the determination of a penalty, and let the Governor-General, Liu Ping-chang, allow this magistrate a certain time to enable him to re-capture the escaped prisoner, Li Ch'ao-chün. As for the rest let it be as requested and let the proper Board take note.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hwai T'a-pu, President of the Board of Revenue, A K'o-tan and Yü Tê.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

At the instance of the Court of Censors, His Majesty has appointed Hsü Fu and Yi Liu to be special proctors at the coming provincial graduate examinations to be held at the capital. The Princes of Yi and Chêng, having finished their commission at the Eastern and Western Mausolea, report their return to Court and ask after His Majesty's health. Fu Shêng-pu, having completed his leave of absence, reports his return to Court duties. The Duke of Yung asks for twenty extra days' leave of absence owing to prolonged indisposition.

REPORT OF TRANSPORT EXPENSES FOR 1892 OF THE FUKIEN MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

T'an Chung-lin, Governor-General of the Min-Chê provinces, reports that the transport expenses incurred during 1892 in bringing from the interior materials for the manufacture of gunpowder, for tanning leather for rifle straps and ammunition belts; materials for the making of fulminators, and caps for breechloading artillery and gun carriages; for taking to and fro fire engines repaired at the Arsenal; and taking to the Arsenal (Pagoda Anchorage) ropes, oil, minerals and saltpetre and such like, amounted in all for the year in question to Tls. 3,200.73. All such expenses in transport were incurred at various times whenever wanted in the near neighbourhood. The total expenses incurred in the manufacture of warlike stores will be dealt with under another head, as this, according to regulations, is a separate matter from the case under review.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.*

THE YELLOW RIVER WORKS.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, complains that the Tls. 600,000 annually allowed by the Throne from the revenue of the province for the sole purpose of

watching over and repairing the Yellow River works are not sufficient for the purposes in view, although with the aid of his immediate subordinates, the Taotais and Provincial Treasurer and Judge, memorialist has used every care in being as economical as possible, and compared with 1889 and 1890 the expenses are far below the mark. Last year memorialist asked and obtained the Throne's sanction to draw a further sum of Tls. 50,000 from the Provincial Treasury, promising to return the sum after the first frosts; but he regrets to say that even then with the utmost economy this addition was found inadequate, for the reason that he has to look after the safety now of both banks of the river stretching along a length of over 1,000 li, the embankments of which require incessant care, necessitating an enormous staff of officers, soldiers, and coolies which with their fuel, grain, and materials such as ropes, *kaoliang* stalks, etc., which are used in strengthening the banks, and which owing to the general poverty of the neighbourhood, have risen in price in an incredible degree. For instance, in the cases of two places alone, Yenwo and Tawangniao, at a critical moment of the floods this year, over fifty days were consumed in strengthening the works, requiring the use of over fifteen million bundles of *kaoliang* stalks and ropes, etc. In this way the usual grant of Tls. 600,000 memorialist finds too little for the purpose this year and hence asks permission to draw another Tls. 50,000 from the Provincial Treasury, to be also returned after the next winter frosts. The memorialist has been compelled by sheer necessity to ask for this extra grant, nor does he dare in the least to be anything but economical in his expenses.—*Rescript: Granted; let the Board of Revenue take note.*

31st August.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hsü Ch'ün, Manchu Brigade-general of Kuangtung, and Kô Mên-t'ai.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Hsin Ch'ün, Manchu Brigade-general at Canton, reported his arrival in person to the Throne this morning. Prince Hsi of the 3rd order, having completed his leave of absence, reports his return to Court duties. The Duke of En asks for ten days' extra leave of absence owing to sickness.

THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATIONS OF FUKIEN.

Wang Si-fan, Literary Chancellor of Fukien, after reporting his arrival at Foochow to take the place of the former Literary Chancellor Shên, deceased, states that out of the nine prefectures and two independent sub-prefectures belonging to the entire province of Fukien, the students of the seven prefectures of Ch'uan-chow, Chienning, Yêup'ing, Tsioghou, Hsinghua, Shaowu and Changchou, and the two independent sub-prefectures of Yungt'ün and Lungyen, had already been examined and passed by memorialist's predecessor, so that when he arrived at Foochow, there only remained the students of the prefectures of Foochow and Funing to be examined. Memorialist started therefore from the city of Foochow on the 28th of May for Funing, with this object and returned on the 4th of July to Foochow to examine the candidates for the licentiate or *shu-tsai* degree of the metropolitan city, which was completed on the 4th of August. Memorialist found the Funing students especially orderly and their theses gave encouraging promise of brilliant talent. Having now finished his duties as Literary Chancellor for this year, memorialist, in accordance with custom, begs leave to give a summary of the literary and military aspects of the province which is contained in another paper and which will be sent to the proper Board to be put on record.—*Rescript: Noted.*

REWARDS ASKED FOR SAVING A SHIP-WRECKED JUNK.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, in a postscript memorial, states that according to the report of Li Chên-yung, acting Intendant of the Têng-lai-ts'ing Circuit of Shantung, a Fukien junk called the *Sin-ch'ang's'ün* bound for Fêngtien (Newchwang) being caught in the great storm last year which lasted five days, beginning from the 23rd of November and ending on the 27th, was blown down the Peckili gulf upon the Nant'ich'êng Tao, or island of the city of Nant'í, belonging to the district of P'ênglai (near Chefoo) and got stuck fast on the beach of the island. Hearing of this disaster Taotai Li Chên-yung, above-named, immediately telegraphed to the Captain commanding the despatch vessel *Ts'ao-chiang*, at Weihaiwei, to proceed at once to the rescue of the unfortunate junk. The commander of the vessel, the expectant Lieutenant Colonel of Minché, Wang Yung-fa, having taken on board the Commissioner of the life saving station of P'ênglaisien,

the expectant prefect Li Ching-hsi (Li Hung-chang's nephew), and his assistant, the student Ts'ui Chung-yi, immediately proceeded to the spot where the distressed junk lay, and where the crew were in imminent danger of losing their lives, and, succeeded after considerable trouble in rescuing the captain of the junk, Huang Ch'ao-lung, and thirty-four of his crew. After a time the disabled junk was towed over to Chefoo by the *Ts'ao-chiang* where she has been repaired so far as to be able to continue her voyage. As the island of Nant'ich'êng is a lonely rock and bears the name of being a dangerous place to mariners, and as the rescue was made in a blinding snowstorm, and the officers and men of the gunboat worked regardless of day or night at the good work, three persons named in this memorial, who did their duty nobly and careless of their own safety and comfort, the memorialist thinks deserve a reward, and therefore requests that they should all be promoted a step. The Commander of the *Ts'ao-chiang*, Lieutenant Colonel Wang Yung-fa to be made a full Colonel; the expectant prefect Li Ching-hsi to be made an expectant Taotai, and the student Ts'ui Chung-yi to be made an officer of the 9th grade, class B.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the proper yamen also take note.*

1st September.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience in the Grand Council Chamber, this morning, to Ching Sing and Li Shan. Prince Lün, of the 4th order, having returned from his commission to the Eastern Mausolea, respectfully asked after the Imperial health.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Tsu, of the 4th order, the Duke of Po and Yü and Sung Shan having completed their leave of absence, report their return to Court duties. The Duke of En has asked for fifteen days' extra leave of absence from Court owing to prolonged indisposition.

A GAOLWARDEN DENOUNCED.

Liu Ping-chang, an officer of the Premier button, and Governor-General of Szechuan province, states that he has received a despatch from Shên Ch'êng, district magistrate of Ch'angch'í, announcing the escape of a prisoner, who had been sentenced to death, from the Ch'angch'í cells. The following are the circumstances of the escape. On the 22nd of June last, in obedience to the

commands of the prefect of Paoningfu, the district magistrate of Ch'angch'i, Shên Ch'êng, left the latter city for Pachow in order to assist at the investigations to be held there with reference to a case where a student named Li Kuang-lin had sued a man named Li Sien-lu on some matter or other. Three days later just as the magistrate Shên Ch'êng had arrived within the confines of the district of Pachow he received a despatch from the gaolwarden of Ch'angch'i, Wang Wên-hsün, to the effect that on the night of the 23rd of June in the 3rd watch (between 10 o'clock and midnight) a high wind arose in consequence of which the large lantern hanging in the principal hall of the prison god's temple, within the gaol precincts, got ablaze, and the silk hangings before the shrine having also caught fire the conflagration spread to the windows and wooden partitions of the temple building. All this while the wind became higher and raged most fiercely, and it being feared that the gaol also would ignite and thus cause the destruction of the lives of the confined inmates, the gaolwarden, Wang Wên-hsün, ordered the principal gaoler, Têng Fu, and his assistants to bring out the condemned criminal Li Ch'ao-chün and the other prisoners from their quarters to the gaol main entrance, to examine whether the prisoners were all there, and to see that their handcuffs and bonds were quite secure. While this was being done the gaolwarden alleges that he took extra precautions by ordering double guards to be placed over the prisoners, and marching them off in this way to a large empty room in the temple, at a distance from the scene of the fire. Têng Fu, the head gaoler, confined his particular attention to the safety of the condemned criminal, Li Ch'ao-chün; but just then, the hubbub caused by the report of a fire having arisen in the gaol precincts having brought large crowds of people to the spot, and the confusion and outcries being immense, the head gaoler somehow got knocked off his feet during the march to the yamen, and the criminal Li Ch'ao-chün managed to elude the hold of his gaoler and so escaped during the confusion that was manifest on all sides. The gaolwarden immediately sent off men to pursue the escaped criminal, as soon as he heard of this further mishap, while he in person devoted his attention to the putting out of the fire which he finally succeeded in doing, without its having spread to the gaol itself. The remaining prisoners were eventually col-

lected together the next morning in a vacant plot near the North gate of Ch'angch'i city, and on inspection it was found that a pair of handcuffs had been broken (belonging to Li Ch'ao-chün) who so far has not been recaptured. As for the district magistrate, Shên Ch'êng, the moment he received the news he immediately returned to Ch'angch'i, and conducted a personal examination of the gaolers concerned. He reports that the strictest enquiry failed to elicit that any bribes had been given by the condemned criminal to the gaolers, and requested memorialist to send orders throughout the whole province for a general hunt after the escaped prisoner. The crime for which the said Li Ch'ao-chün was lying under sentence of decapitation, seems to be one of manslaughter in which the prisoner during an altercation with another man named Tsao Ming-shan, accidentally brought down his (Li Ch'ao-chün's) own great uncle Li Liang-shêng, with a large stone, meant for Tsao Ming-shan, through the effects of which the said Li Liang-shêng subsequently died. According to the decision arrived at by the Provincial Treasurer and Judge of Sz-chuan in this case, and brought before the memorialist for approval, they denounce the gaolwarden, Wang Wên-hsün, for carelessness, both as to want of forethought in preventing the chance of a conflagration in the gaol precincts, and subsequently in trusting too much to the faith of the gaoler, Têng Fu, and his assistants, whereby an important criminal has been suffered to escape, owing to which these high officials suspect that bribery might have been used to bring the escape about. Although, furthermore, the district magistrate of Ch'angch'i had the excuse of being absent from the spot at the time, still the charge of want of forethought can also be made against him, and this official is recommended to be turned over to the Board of Punishments for the determination of a penalty, while the gaolwarden, Wang Wên-hsün, is asked to be immediately degraded and his post taken away from him. Memorialist agrees with these recommendations of the Treasurer and Judge, and while now asking that the Throne should command the proper Board to determine the penalty that should be awarded to Shên Ch'êng, he (memorialist) has on the other hand at once degraded the gaolwarden in question, and given orders that he and the head gaoler and his assistants be sent on to Ch'êngtu, for trial by the memorialist himself. A deputy has also been sent to

Ch'angchi to investigate the origin of the fire.—*Rescript: Decree already published.*

2nd September.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to K'un Kang and Ch'ing Fu.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Duke of Yung asks for twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court owing to prolonged illness. Yen Siu having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHIHLI FAMINE FUND.

I-K'ò-tang-a, Military Governor of Heilongchiang, and his colleagues desire to convey their sympathies with the great distress now prevalent in the Metropolitan prefecture of Shuntienfu and Chihli province caused by the recent rains there, and, knowing well that in such a crisis every cent of money may be the means of saving a life, set about to offer their sympathies in a substantial form. It was at first intended to buy grain and transport it to Chihli, but this would take time, and time under the circumstances was precious. The best way therefore to do was to send the money collected by the memorialist and his colleagues by wire to Peking through Chinese banks, and to telegraph to the Governor of Shuntienfu to draw the money at the capital. This has been done and a sum Tls. 10,000 wired over to Peking.—*Rescript. Let the proper yamen take note.*

No other news of interest.

3rd September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

In response to the memorial of the Board of War asking the Throne to appoint Examiners of Archery (on horseback and on foot) in the case of the literary candidates of Tartar descent, the following Edicts have been ordered to be published:—

(1) Let Hsi Ching and Fu Chên go as Examiners of the same.

(2) Siu Lin is also appointed Special Examining Commissioner of the above.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of K'ò Chin asks for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court owing to prolonged indisposition.

REVIEWING THE CH'ENG TU TROOPS.

Liu Ping-chang, Governor-General of Szechuan, Kung Shou, Tartar General of the Manchu garrison of Ch'engtú, and Ts'ien Yü-hsing, Brigadier-General of

Ch'ungking, at present acting as T'itu or Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese forces of Szechuan, jointly memorialise the result of their inspection of the Ch'engtú troops during the usual Spring manoeuvres of this year. According to custom there are two reviews that should take place each year of the Ch'engtú troops, consisting of the battalions belonging to the Governor-General's command, the Manchu garrison, and the troops belonging to the Chinese Commander-in-Chief of the province. The above named troops are mobilised during the Spring and Autumn terms of each year, and inspected as one body by the officers named above, who are required to report the result of their inspection to the Throne. The troops belonging to the three commands above mentioned garrisoning Ch'engtú consist of ten battalions, and were reviewed by the memorialists on the 2nd of June last. The men were exercised in the spear and sword and target manuals and displayed commendable knowledge of their drills. The subordinate officers were subsequently examined as to efficiency in archery and gun-firing on horseback and on foot, and with the jingals and matchlock shooting of the soldiery showed a total average of over ninety per cent. of hits. The bows used in the archery competition were all of the seventy catty or seven *liá* sort, that is to say they required a man having at least strength to draw weights of seventy catties to pull them. On the whole memorialists join in testifying to the proficiency of the troops under review both individually and as a body, and rewarded the most deserving on the spot, after the inspection was over. Memorialists exhorted the troops and officers commanding them, after the review, to continue their drills without flagging, promising Imperial recognition to the most energetic.—*Rescript: Noted.*

4th September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Tè-kò-chin-ò, Manchu Brigade General of Ts'ingchou, Shantung, asks to be allowed to give up his post owing to continued illness. With reference to this request, we command that his petition be allowed, and that he be allowed to retain his full allowances during the period of his retirement from public duties.

THE COURT.

His Majesty has announced his intention to proceed to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock to the Temple of Imperial Longevity, and after paying the usual sacrifices will

return to the Lakes. His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hsi Ching and Chang Ying-huan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the Board of Civil Appointments, His Majesty has appointed the Grand Secretary Hsi T'ung and fourteen others to inspect the newly repaired Temple of the Moon, made ready for the coming Autumnal Equinox Festival. Kuei Hêng, President of the Board of War, and Ch'ien Kuang having completed their leave of absence report their return to Court duties. The Duke of Pêh asks for twenty days' extra leave of absence owing to prolonged indisposition.

RETURN OF THE GOVERNOR OF KUANGSI TO HIS POST.

Chang Lien-kuei, an officer of the Premier button and Governor of Kuangsi, begs to give thanks for the Imperial bounty that had been accorded him by His Majesty in permitting him to gaze twice on the sacred countenance, while he was in Peking in the month of May last, and for the gracious permission given him to return to his home at Yich'eng, Kiangsu, for the purpose of visiting the graves of his forefathers, while en route for his post in Kuangsi. The memorialist now begs to report that he passed through Tientsin on his way to the south, and taking steamer at that port proceeded by sea to his native town at which place he arrived on the 27th of May. He remained in his native town until the 6th of June, these ten days being allowed him by Imperial grace for the purpose, and again taking steamer arrived at Kueilin, the capital of Kuangsi, *via* Canton, on the 13th of July. On the 17th of the same month memorialist took over the seals of his office from the acting Governor, the Provincial Treasurer Huang Hui-shêng, and having now settled down to work, writes this memorial for the information of the Throne.—*Rescript: Noted.*

5th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

- (1) Let the 27th of September be the day appointed for the changing of the summer official hats for the winter ones.
- (2) Let Hui T'a-pu be appointed Chief and Pa-kô-tan-pu Vice-Commissioner of the Peking *Octroi* at the Ch'ungwên Gate.
- (3) Let Chün Liang be appointed Chancellor of the Hanlin Yüan or Imperial Academy of Literature.

(4) Nô Ch'ing is appointed Manchu Brigade-General of Ts'ingchou, Shantung, *vice* Tô-kô-chin-ô retired on account of illness.

THE COURT.

His Imperial Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ang Lin and Wang Ming-luan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty in response to the memorial of the Imperial Clan Court has appointed the Prince of Mu, of the 3rd order, to be the Preserver of Order at the Provincial Examinations for the *Chujê* degree to be held on behalf of members of the Imperial Clan. Chang Pêh-hsi asks for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties owing to prolonged indisposition.

RETURNING TO THEIR DUTIES.

Two memorials by Huang Hui-shêng, Provincial Treasurer and Hu Yü-fên, Provincial Judge of Kuangsi, reporting their return on the 17th of July to their own *posts* after having undertaken, the first the duties of acting Governor of Kuangsi, caused by the absence of the Governor Chang Lien-kuei since the 23rd of February last, and the second the duties of acting Provincial Treasurer, caused by the temporary filling of the Governorship by Huang Hui-shêng above named.—*Rescripts: Noted.*

No other papers of interest.

6th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

- (1) Siê Hsi-chân is appointed Censor of the Honan Circuit.
- (2) Members of the Court and the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations are to wear, until further orders, dresses made of the "Mati" gauze.

THE COURT.

His Imperial Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Grand Secretary Fu K'un, Hui T'a-pu, newly appointed Chief Commissioner of the Ch'ung-wên gate *Octroi*, and Shou Ying. His Majesty intends to proceed to-morrow morning, after breakfast, and after transacting State business, to Eho Park to pay His Majesty's obeisance to H. I. M. the Empress Dowager, after which His Majesty will return to the Lakes.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the Grand Court of Sacrificial Worship, His Majesty has appointed Yü Sui, Ch'ing Lin,

and Shih En-yung to sacrifice in His Majesty's stead at the Lake of the White Dragon; while at the instance of the Office of Worship, Ceremonies and Control of Eunuchs (Imperial Household) P'u T'ung, Prince of the 4th order, has been ordered to conduct the worship at the Imperial ancestral shrines, on the 10th instant. Huai T'a-pu and K'ò Tan-pu both presented memorials this morning in person, thanking His Majesty's selection of themselves to be Chief and Vice Commissioners of the Peking *Octroi* at the Ch'ung-wèn gate. The Duke of Ch'èng asks for ten days, and the Marquis of Sing for twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court owing to urgent family affairs.

A WHOLESALE MURDER CASE.

T'an Chün-pei, an officer of the Premier button and Governor of Yünnan, reports an important case where a man had been found guilty of having murdered his own brother, sister-in-law, and two nephews, thus killing four members of the victimised family, and the sentences which have been adjudged the murderer and his accomplices. Owing to a despatch received by the memorialist from Wang Wei, sub-prefect of Amichou, in the province of Yünnan, detailing the incidents of the above named murder, and in consideration of the case being, under the circumstances, one of extraordinary importance, memorialist gave immediate orders to the said sub-prefect to send the murderer and his accomplices and such witnesses as could be found up to Yünnanfu, the capital of the province, in order that the case might be tried under the personal supervision of memorialist himself. The men concerned in the case having been taken under strong escort to the capital, memorialist ordered Têng Hsing-lan, senior prefect of Yünnanfu, to preside over the trial of these men. This having been done by the prefect Têng Hsing-lan, and his associate judge the chehsien-elect of Chienshuihsien, Shih Chien-chung, and the various facts of the case having been elicited from the prisoners, memorialist commanded that the case should go up before the higher tribunal (Provincial Judge) for verification. Nothing farther having been added to what had already been confessed, memorialist personally went over the case having as his associates the Provincial Treasurer and Judge to assist him. The following is the result of memorialist's investigations. Tsao Ssü-yi, his wife Tsao Fu-shih, and his two sons Tsao Siao-shou and Tsao

Siao-erh were the murdered victims and lived within the environs of Amichou. The murderer, as well as the instigator of the murders, was Tsao Ssü-siu, the elder brother of the murdered Tsao Ssü-yi. The accomplices were Tsao Ssü-hsien, Tsao Ssü-an and Tsao Ssü-wo (members of the same clan), Ch'èn Ching-fang, T'uan Chiu-ch'uan, Chow Ts'ai and Fu Siao-ta; the first four named of whom lived in Milòhsien, within the jurisdiction of Amichou. Before the murder, the two brothers, Tsao Ssü-siu, the elder brother and instigator of the murder, and Tsao Ssü-yi, the murdered man, were always supposed to be on friendly terms, having never shown any enmity against each other until about the time of the murder. In 1876, Tsao the elder took his wife and son to live at a place called Chuyuan (Bamboo Plantation) leaving the ancestral acres among the hill land of Amichou to be cultivated by Tsao the younger and his wife. In May of last year (1892) owing to the deaths of his wife and son at Chuyuan, Tsao Ssü-siu, the elder, returned to Amichou with the intention of dividing up the ancestral land and obtaining his own share of the property. This was refused by Tsao Ssü-yi, the younger. On the 11th of January of the present year, Tsao, the elder, again visited Amichou, for the purpose of getting a share of the money obtained from the late harvests by Tsao, the younger. On this occasion Tsao Fu-shih, the wife of Tsao the younger, poured forth a lot of vituperative language reviling Tsao the elder, charging him with vagabondage and worthlessness, winding up her attack with a threat to kill this brother-in-law of hers, as a useless member of her husband's clan. From this may be dated the beginning of Tsao the elder's hatred against his victim's family which finally resulted in their wholesale murder. Tsao the elder then returned to Milòhsien and complained of his ill-treatment to Tsao Ssü-hsien, Tsao Ssü-an and Tsao Ssü-wo (members of his clan) and Ch'èn Ching-fang, (these four having been captured) and T'uan Chiu-ch'uan, Chow Ts'ai and Fu Siao-ta, the last three being still at large. To these men the elder Tsao appealed for aid and they being very indignant at the unfraternal conduct of the younger Tsao and his wife, which they considered a little short of filial impiety, at once signified their willingness to assist the elder Tsao in any scheme he might have on hand to revenge himself for the affront he had received, and for what they conceived to be the younger Tsao's crime in encroaching upon his elder brother's

property and heritage. On that same night it was agreed to march to the house of their victims, all of them being armed with either sword or pitchfork, with the sole exception of Tsao Ssü-wo who went unarmed. Ch'ên Ching-fang was the first to enter Tsao Ssü-yi's room where he slept with his wife and sons, while the elder Tsao barred escape at the door armed with a pitchfork. Ch'ên Ching-fang, Tsao Ssü-hsien, Tsao Ssü-an, Tsao Ssü-wô, T'uan Chin-ch'uan, Chow K'ai and Fu Siao-ta, seven in all, then rushed into the sleeping apartment of their victims and speedily despatched the younger Tsao and his wife Tsao Fu-shih, with repeated thrusts of sword and pitchfork. Tsao Ssü-wo, however, scared at the work of blood and being, moreover, unarmed, slouched out of the room as soon as the work of death commenced and remained a passive attendant during the murder. As soon as the younger Tsao and his wife were killed, T'uan Chiu-ch'uan, Chow Ta'ai and Fu Siao-ta at once left the house and have not been heard of since. Just then, however, the two young sons of the younger Tsao commenced to cry out in fear, so that the elder Tsao afraid that their cries would be heard by the neighbours gave orders that the two children should also be despatched. Whereupon Ch'ên Ching-fang and Tsao Ssü-hsien returned to the room and with their swords and hooked pitchforks stabbed one child in the abdomen while the other received a gash on the left part of the forehead. They both died of their wounds. After the work of death had been accomplished the party who had remained commenced to dig graves for their victims in the adjoining fields and this being done they separated. As there were a number of persons concerned in these murders and moreover owing to its being done in the night and hastily, no evidence could be adduced as to who amongst the murderers gave the mortal blows on the persons of their victims. Shortly after the murder, the affair got bruited about and getting to the ears of the sub-prefect of Amichou, Wang Wei, he at once set enquiries on foot, with the result that the first five of the murderers, including Tsao the elder, were arrested. The above having been adduced by the four prisoners before the memorialist in person, without any prevarication or attempt at denial, the memorialist immediately retired to decide upon the sentences that should be given. According to the established law of this dynasty, in the case of anyone killing three persons belonging to the same family, the degrees of blood relationship should be taken

into consideration. Should, however, at least one of the victims possess no blood relationship to the murderer, the latter should be forthwith decapitated for his crime, and his head displayed to the public. Again, the law has it, if a man kills three persons, for which deed he is liable to suffer death, his actual accomplices who aided in the murder cannot escape sentence, and they are also to suffer decapitation. Should, however, an accomplice attend the murder without actually aiding in the deed, this last must be dealt with one degree lighter than for the crime of premeditated murder, which is that he shall be beaten with one hundred blows of the big bamboo and banished to a distance of 3,000 li. In the present case, Tsao Ssü-siu, the elder, filled with thoughts of revenge, brought about the murder of his younger brother Tsao Ssü-yi and his two nephews Tsao Siao-shou and Tsao Siao-erh. Although these three persons were his juniors, still the fourth victim was a sister-in-law, and not a blood relation, hence the murderer comes under the second category of the law just quoted. Leaving aside therefore, the lighter crime of having secretly buried his victims, Tsao Ssü-siu, the elder, was sentenced to decapitation and his head displayed to the public gaze. Ch'ên Ching-fang, and Tsao Ssü-hsien were accomplices who gave actual aid in the murders, and were also sentenced to be beheaded, while Tsao Ssü-an, being a junior blood relation, leaving out the question of having given actual aid, also deserved death. Having decided upon the sentences above named, memorialist at once exercised the power that is vested in him as holder of the power of life and death, and gave orders to the Colonel commanding the bodyguard of Tsên Yü-pao, Provincial Judge, to superintend the execution of the above named four criminals. With reference to the case of Tsao Ssü-wô, although an accomplice, still being scared at the deed he slouched out of the room without giving any actual aid to the murderers. Hence a sentence one degree lighter than that for premeditated murder has been adjudged him, and so having undergone 100 blows of the big bamboo he will be banished to a distance of 1,000 li. The remaining three who have escaped will be dealt with when captured. In conclusion memorialist gave orders for the decent burial of the four victims and the freedom of the witnesses who were placed under confinement during the foregoing examinations.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments report thereon.*

7th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) P'an Ts'ung-fu is appointed First Captain of the Permanent Garrison of the city of Fuchou, Shensi.

(2) Yü Wan-k'un is appointed Major commanding the P'an city regiment of Kweichow.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Chün Liang gave thanks in person before His Majesty, for his appointment of Expositor of the Hanlin Yuan or Imperial Academy of Literature. Prince K'un, Wu-la-hsi-ch'ung-a, and Yung Shan have all presented memorials asking for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

THE LAW OF PRIMOGENITURE IN SHENSI.

Lu Ch'uan-lin, Governor of Shensi, states that in accordance with the regulation for Governors and heads of provinces to make half-yearly reports to the Throne of any cases of transmittal of hereditary titles, or rights of primogeniture that may come to their notice, he now begs to report to His Majesty the cases of T'uan Shêng-lin, a native of the district of Ch'anggan, and Yang Chên-ên, of the district of Ank'ang, who by right of primogeniture should enter upon the title of *Yün Chi-yü* or Hereditary Noble of the eighth grade, vacated by the deaths of their immediate seniors. In other words, T'uan Shêng-lin is the eldest lineal grandson (eldest son of the eldest son) of the late T'uan Jung-fu, formerly Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Chêkiang, his own father, the eldest son of the said T'itu or Commander-in-Chief, having died many years before the last named official. Yang Chêng-ên is the nephew and only heir of the late Yang Ming-ching, a Lieutenant in the Left Battalion of the Kansu Provincial Commander-in-Chief, who died on the field of battle and so was ennobled as a Hereditary Noble of the eighth grade. Both these lineal heirs of nobility were presented to the memorialist who found their papers and antecedents all correct. He now reports them to the Throne and begs His Majesty's clemency to acknowledge the young nobles, and at the same time sends an account of the matter to the proper boards.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War report thereon.*

A CASE OF ABDUCTION.

The same high official begs to report a case in which a military provincial graduate *chujên* violently abducted with the assistance of an accomplice a woman from

the common people in order to make her his concubine, and the sentence which was passed on this violator of the law. Some time ago memorialist received a report from the chehsien of Puch'êng to the effect that a military *chujên*, Chang Kuang-yao, had gathered a band of men and abducted the wife of one Yü Hsing-hô, a man of the people, for the purpose of making her his concubine; but that the said military *chujên*, relying upon his position and powerful relations, had shown much deceit and cunning and entirely refused to confess his crime. In view of this memorialist reported the matter to the Throne at the same time requesting His Majesty to cashier this *chujên* in order that, deprived of the rank, he might be "questioned" like any other member of the common people. This was granted by rescript and the Board of War ordered to take cognizance of the fact. Upon receipt of this Edict, memorialist immediately ordered the prefect of Hanchung, Liu Tsz-ch'uan, to try the case, which being done it was sent up to the high court presided over by the Provincial Judge T'ang Shu-nan, and eventually verified by the memorialist in person who went over the case carefully and finally gave the requisite sentence the law demands in such cases. The facts of the above case are as follows: The prisoner Chang Kuang-yao became a military *chujên* in 1885 and is a native of the district of Puch'êng, Shensi. The girl whom he abducted is called Li Cho-nü-tsz, and is the step-daughter of one Chang Lien-yü who married her mother Li Shih on the death of the girl's father. Before the girl Li Cho-nü-tsz was betrothed to any one, the prisoner Chang Kuang-yao, having fallen in love with her, desired to make her his concubine; but fearing that the girl's step-father would be unwilling to allow her to become a concubine, Chang Kuang-yao bribed a go-between to go to Chang Lien-yü and state that Chang Kuang-yao, being a widower and childless, was anxious to marry Li Cho-nü-tsz and make her his wife. Not suspecting the true state of affairs, and as Chang Kuang-yao by virtue of his military rank and good position was an eligible match, Chang Lien-yü, the girl's stepfather, of course assented to the marriage, and the customary betrothal presents were accordingly interchanged between the two families. Subsequently, Chang Lien-yü, having heard that the said Chang Kuang-yao was still in possession of a wife and moreover had a family of sons and daughters, knew that he had been over-reached by fraud and resenting it demanded

from the go-between and Chang Kuang-yao an annulment of the engagement, at the same time offering to return the betrothal presents. This, however, Chang Kuang-yao refused. So Chang Lien-yü applied to the magistrate of Nanch'eng, Shih Shao, giving the reasons why he refused to allow his step-daughter to be a concubine. Chang Kuang-yao was accordingly summoned and the Magistrate having heard both sides of the case gave judgment for Chang Lien-yü, commanding Chang Kuang-yao to receive back the betrothal presents and return the horoscope of the girl Li Cho-nü-tsz to her stepfather. To this Chang Kuang-yao had to assent, but with a bad grace, and the girl was free once more to be engaged to anyone her stepfather and mother desired to betroth her to. Accordingly in the 11th moon of the 15th year of the present reign, (December 1889) with the assistance of proper go-betweens, Li Cho-nü-tsz was betrothed to a silk trader of the name of Yü Hsing-hô, and it was arranged that the marriage should take place on the 8th day of the 1st moon of the following year (February, 1890). Chang Kuang-yao hearing, of the re-engagement and near approach of the marriage of Li Cho-nü-tsz to Yü Hsing-hô, felt very much disturbed and enraged at the authors of his disappointment, and hearing that, as is the custom in such cases, the bride would return on the third morning of the marriage (10th day of 1st moon) to the house of her parents to spend the day with them, and fearing also that his own parents would decidedly object to what he intended to do, he (Chang Kuang-yao) privately rented another house and having obtained the assistance of a farm labourer on his father's estate, called Chang Chiu-wâ, an arrangement was made to abduct the bride on her journey to her parents' house on that day. On the day mentioned, Chang Kuang-yao and his assistant secretly waited at the cross-road, at a place called Haichshuichih, where the bride was sure to pass and saw Li Cho-nü-tsz accompanied by her husband, both mounted on donkeys, wending their way, to the residence of the bride's parents in the village. When the newly-married pair approached, Chang Kuang-yao suddenly rushed up and lifted the girl down from the donkey and attempted to start for his newly rented house. The husband Yü resented this conduct; but Chang Kuang-yao retorted that the girl had first been betrothed to him, and he, Yü, had no right to marry her. Yü tried

to wrest his wife away from the hands of the ravisher, but was prevented doing so by the assistant, and moreover, fearing violence at the hands of a desperate man, of great strength, he saw his bride borne off without being able to prevent it. Chang Kuang-yao, however, called out to Yü before going that he had better call his father-in-law Chang Lien-yü to come to his house next day, and they would settle matters amicably. Chang Kuang-yao then took the girl to his new quarters, where having gone through the farce of a marriage ceremony he made her his concubine. The next morning Chang Kuang-yao asked a friend to go to Chang Lien-yü to smooth matters over by offering to repay the silk trader every cent of money he had disbursed in the affair and also an extra sum to enable him to marry some one else, as well as a sum of hushmoney to the girl's stepfather. This, however, was refused, and Chang Lien-yü reported the matter to the magistrate of Puch'eng, Lin Yao-t'ing, to whom he presented the written decision of the Magistrate of Nanch'eng, four years ago. A despatch by the Puch'eng Magistrate to the latter named district *yamen* brought back a corroboration of Chang Lien-yü's statement and a warrant was issued for the arrest of Chang Kuang-yao for the crime of abduction with violence. The man, fearful of the consequences, remained in hiding, but the *yamen* runners being given a certain time to accomplish his arrest in on pain of severe corporal punishment, Chang Kuang-yao was at last arrested, though relying on his rank and family influence he defied the Puch'eng magistrate who was finally compelled to ask that Chang Kuang-yao be cashiered, in order that the law might take its proper course. This being accomplished by order of the Throne, Chang Kuang-yao finally acknowledged the deed, and made no attempt at subterfuge with the memorialist at the final trial before his tribunal. The law provides the decapitation, with exposure of head, of anyone who gathers a band of men and uses violence in abducting and ravishing a woman who has a husband. As Chang Kuang-yao only had a single assistant who, by the way, has so far escaped arrest, and as not much violence was used, according to the evidence adduced, and, moreover, as no parallel case is quoted in the law books, memorialist has been compelled to use his judgment in the matter, and decided to sentence the prisoner to one degree lighter punishment than that for the crime of gathering a band of men and abducting

with violence, that is to say, Chang Kuang-yao has been sentenced to be strangled, after the usual incarceration in prison, during the autumn criminal sessions in the capital. His accomplice Chang Chiu-wa, will be dealt with as soon as captured, and the girl Li Cho-nü-tex has been returned to her husband.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War report thereon.*

8th September.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ung Li and Sün Chieh.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Ch'ang Lih, newly appointed Colonel of Hunan, returns thanks for his appointment. Ch'ung Li having completed his leave of absence was received in audience this morning. Sung Shêng, Hai Hsü and Fêng Wêng-yü have asked and obtained ten days' extra leave of absence from Court.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE PEKING OCTROI.

Fu K'un, a member of the Imperial Clan, Grand Secretary and Comptroller-General of the Board of Revenue, states that the term of the present Chief Commissioner of the Peking Octroi at the Ch'ungwên gate, Tsai Ch'i, should expire by the 11th of September instant, being the end of twelve lunar months commencing from the 22nd of September, 1892. As it is the privilege of the memorialist's Board to recommend the holders of this post, memorialist after drawing His Majesty's attention to the fact of the necessity of changing the incumbent, begs to present a list of names given him by the various Boards and *yaméns* as well as the Imperial Household Department of the men eligible for the above-named post.—*Rescript: Decree already published.*

Another memorial by the Comptroller of the Imperial Household whose privilege it is to recommend to the Throne the successor to the present Assistant Commissioner of the Peking Octroi at the Chung-wên gate.—*Decree already published in connection with above.*

No other papers of interest.

9th September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Sung Fan, Governor of Kueichow, has memorialised us complaining that the expectant sub-prefect Chang Kuo-ying, while formerly district magistrate of Tinghsien, Kueichow, owed a large sum of money to the government on handing over the seals of office to his successor; and that having failed to make good the deficit

the said Chang Kuo-ying had had his button temporarily taken away as a hint to make haste. However, up to this time he has done nothing and shows an inclination to evade the question. Chang Kuo-ying is therefore cashiered and the Governor of Kueichow is commanded to enforce the repayment of the debt, whilst the Viceroy of Szechuan is also commanded to make investigations at the native city of the said Chang Kuo-ying for the purpose of distraining any property of his on behalf of the Government.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Pa-k'ô-tan-pu, Ching Sing, and Sah Lien.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Pa-k'ô-tan-pu and P'u Hsien having completed their leave of absence humbly ask after the Imperial health. The Grand Secretary Fu K'un and the Board President Hsü Kêng-sêng both ask for five days' leave of absence from Court. The Marquis of Sieh has asked for twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court on account of prolonged illness.

A CASE OF ACCIDENTAL MATRICIDE.

Lu Ch'uan-lin, an officer of the Premier button and Governor of Shênai, begs to report a case in which a man in attempting to fling a piece of timber at a younger brother accidentally hit his own mother thereby causing her death; but which was hushed up by the seniors of the family and not brought to the knowledge of the authorities until after the lapse of over two years. The case was found out by the acting magistrate of Fênghsianghsien, Chang Shih-ying, after a quiet research, and eventually reported to the memorialist. Owing to its being a case of the gravest importance—that of matricide—memorialist immediately gave orders that it should be brought over to the capital, Sianfu, for trial in order to be under the personal supervision of the memorialist himself. To this end, memorialist ordered Wên Chi, the senior prefect of Sianfu, to superintend the preliminary trials and the facts of the case having been elicited, it was taken up to the Superior Court, under the Provincial Judge, and finally verified by the memorialist. The evidence was as follows: Chang Pao-shò the criminal, is a native of Fênghsianghsien of this province, and occupies with his family a large farm house, gaining his living by farming and husbandry. On the 8th day of the 6th

moon of the 16th year of this present reign (July, 1890), Chang Pao-shê having finished reaping a wheat crop returned homewards and espied his younger brother Chang P'ing-p'ing playing on the threshing floor in front of the house. Chang, the elder, accordingly called out to his young brother P'ing-p'ing to stop playing and help the farm hands to lay out the wheat stalks on the threshing floor to be dried. But P'ing-p'ing ignored his elder brother's orders and went on with his game. Thereupon Pao-shê commenced to revile the youngster calling him a "lazy good-for-nothing." P'ing-p'ing retorted with a string of expletives directed against his elder brother which so enraged the latter that seeing a piece of heavy timber, used for pounding grain on the threshing floor, he picked it up and flung it at the former. Just at the moment of the act the mother of the two brothers, Chang Tang-shih, hearing the noise of altercation without doors, hastened out to find the reason of the quarrel, and coming within the line of the flying timber received it square on her forehead at the very moment the younger brother dodged the missile. The unfortunate woman was immediately knocked down senseless by the blow. At this moment an "uncle" (belonging to a distant branch of the clan) of the family, Chang Ts'ien, happening to pass by the spot while returning home from calling on some relatives, saw the deed and hastening up, sternly forbade the brothers from continuing their quarrel, and called upon them to help to carry their mother into the house. Despite the utmost endeavours of medical assistance, Chang Tang-shih died early the next morning from the injuries she had received from the accidental blow. The father of the youths Chang Ming and the "uncle," Chang Ts'ien then consulted together as to what should be done, and it was decided to send the brother culprits (Chang Pao-shê and Chang P'ing-p'ing) to be dealt with by the magistrate of Fênghsianghsien. Thoroughly scared, the two brothers knelt down on the ground and with tears in their eyes begged for mercy at the hands of their father and "uncle." The father Chang Ming being bed-ridden with palsy and depending entirely upon the efforts of his eldest son Chang Pao-shê to take charge of an extensive farm, P'ing-p'ing being really a lazy good-for-nothing, and, after all, being but a father, was inclined to leniency and wished to hush the matter up. But Chang Ts'ien, the "uncle," refused to consent to this until the chief criminal, ren-

dered desperate by the tension of affairs, cried out that if Chang Ts'ien was determined to send him up to the magistrate, he would implicate him also as an accomplice in the murder,—as the law of the country would term the deed. It was not until then that Chang Ts'ien, the "uncle," consented to shut his mouth up, and so proceeded on his journey to his own home. The two brothers then bought a coffin for their mother in which they laid her, and having engaged a couple of itinerant beggars, whose names are unknown, the coffin was taken to the family burial ground and there placed under the sod. Time thus went on and no one seemed to think that anything untoward had happened. But in the middle of the 8th moon of the 18th year of the present reign (first part of October, 1892), over two years after the deed, Chang P'ing-p'ing, the younger brother, being overtaken by illness, died, and soon afterwards the acting magistrate mentioned in the first part of this memorial having got wind of the affair, by patient research and inquiries acquired the whole facts of the case and arrested the principal party concerned in the murder, together with the witnesses connected with it. According to Chang Ming, the father, this man while acknowledging his son's guilt petitioned that as his wife Chang Tang-shih had been so long under ground it would be impossible to make a proper *post mortem*, and moreover, as she had already died under exceptionally sad circumstances, he prayed that the authorities would not expose her remains to further indignities, as an inquest would surely do. The acting magistrate Chang Shih-ying, sympathising with the objections of the husband mentioned above, while reporting the case to memorialist, placed the petition of Chang Ming in its proper light, and memorialist being also unwilling to treat the dead with any more disrespect than could be helped, accordingly gave his consent that no inquest be held over the body of the deceased Chang Tang-shih. The case was accordingly brought to Sianfu for trial, and the matricide Chang Pao-shê acknowledged his crime, stating only that the deed was unintentional, he being only anxious at the time to punish his younger brother P'ing-p'ing for swearing at him and for his laziness in not assisting in bringing in the wheat stalks. In view of the evidence elicited as above, memorialist in turning over the statutes of the dynasty finds it provided that a child who kills his parents, whether intentionally or the reverse should suffer without distinction death

by the "lingering and shameful process" —*lingchih*. In opposition, however, to this law is a proviso in the Statutes of the Empire, which memorialist respectfully begs to quote. On the 21st day of the 3rd moon of the 18th year of the reign of the Emperor Chia Ch'ing (April, 1813), an Edict was promulgated to the following effect: In the case of Pêh P'êng-ho who during an altercation with his sister-in-law Pêh-Kô-shih picked up a stone and in throwing it at her missed his object and accidentally hit his own mother Pêh Wang-shih, thereby causing the latter's death, we command that the sentence of *lingchih* be postponed for awhile, until we have decided upon what should be done to the matricide. As the case of Chang Pao-shê coincides in every respect with the case just quoted, the memorialist considers it to be his duty to follow the precedent quoted above and suspend temporarily the sentence of *lingchih* while awaiting His Majesty's wishes in the matter. Again the law provides that any one knowing or hearing of a murder, should the said person fail to report the matter to the authorities, he should be beaten with one hundred blows of the big bamboo. If the person be past seventy years of age, he shall be at liberty to condone the offence by paying a fine. Chang Ts'ien the "uncle," who got frightened by the threat of being dragged in as an accomplice of a murder and so did not report the matter to the authorities, therefore comes under this category, but being over seventy years of age has been allowed to commute his sentence by the payment of a fine. Chang Ming, the father, also should not escape punishment, first for condoning his son's crime and hushing the matter up, and secondly for privately burying his murdered wife's corpse. But here again there are extenuating circumstances, and Chang Ming's case is one especially deserving of commiseration. Being a paralytic he depended entirely for subsistence upon the energy of Chang Pao-shê, the murderer, his eldest son, the younger one being a lazy sloth and unwilling to help his parents. Hence, considering the man worthy of pity and placed under harrowing circumstances, memorialist has not sentenced him to any punishment. The village constable or *t'ipao* has been punished with eighty blows of the bamboo for failing to discover the crime at the time, but having shown energy in solving the mystery, eventually, he has not been deprived of his office. The root of the whole of this deplorable case was Chang Ping-p'ing

the younger son, who by his sloth and subsequent defiance of his elder brother who had the power of punishing him, caused the accidental death of the mother. The law in his case should be that of death by strangulation, that is to say the sentence given to any junior member of a family who by his misdeeds causes a senior to commit suicide in despair; but as he is now already dead, there is no need of going on further with his case, provided the neighbours of the Chang family be made to give a bond guaranteeing increased watchfulness over the good conduct of each other, individually, in the future. As this case of accidental matricide happened in July, 1890, during the term of office of the former magistrate of Fênghsianghsien, Shih Yü-chün, and as he failed to find out the affair, memorialist intends, according to the regulations provided in such cases, to denounce him for lack of vigilance and circumspection in the duties of his post.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments report speedily thereon.*

CHEKIANG CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEIYANG COAST DEFENCE FUND.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chêkiang, in a postscript memorial states that in accordance with the orders promulgated by Imperial Edict, though the Viceroy of Chihli and the Admiralty Board, in which the province of Chêkiang is bound to provide Tls. 400,000 during 1893, on behalf of the Peiyang Coast Defence Fund, with the privilege of sending the contribution in eight instalments, memorialist now begs to report that he is sending the fourth instalment of Tls. 40,000 through the Jeh Shêng-chang banking establishment, which will be delivered to the Viceroy of Chihli at Tientsin upon arrival at port.—*Rescript: Let the pro, or yamen take note.*

CHEKIANG CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENCE FUND OF THE NORTH-EASTERN PROVINCES.

The same high official in another postscript memorial states that in accordance with despatches received from the Board of Revenue and Tsungli Yamen which have been authorised to do so by Imperial Edict issued through the Grand Council, by which the province of Chêkiang is required to contribute for 1893 the sum of Tls. 80,000 from the Land Taxes, on behalf of the Defence Fund of the north-eastern provinces (Fêng-t'ien, Kirin, and Tsitsihar) he is now sending a draft for Tls. 10,000 under the charge of the expectant deputy magistrate Shêng

Shang-yi, who will go by sea to Tientsin and overland to Peking, where the money being cashed will be turned over to the Board of Revenue. Memorialist also begs to remark that commencing with the month of February last up to July, he has already sent up Tls. 40,000 which with the present draft brings up the total contribution of Chèkiang, up to date, to Tls. 50,000. *Rescript:—Let the proper yaméns take note.*

10th September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

The duties of a Chamberlain of the Guards are at present very onerous. The "Panther's-tail Lance," therefore, which Shih Tu has been exempted from carrying on command should devolve upon Tsai Tsâ, Duke of Tsêh, instead.

[N.B.—The "Panther's-tail Lance" referred to above is part of the paraphernalia of a Chamberlain of the Imperial Guards who happens at the time to command the Imperial Escort detailed for duty during the hours when His Majesty is not in the Imperial Harem, and the Shih Tu who has been exempted from carrying this kind of lance or spear refers to the Prince of Li.—*Translator.*]

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Liao Shou-fêng, Provincial Treasurer of Honan, and to K'un Kang, one of the Presidents of the Boards.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Liao Shou-fêng, Provincial Treasurer of Honan, has reported his arrival at the capital and humbly asks after the Imperial health.

PARTAKING A SECOND TIME OF THE
"LUH-MING" BANQUET.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chèkiang, asks for the Imperial permission to allow an aged student who has reached the sixtieth anniversary or completed an entire cycle since the time when first as a new-fledged *chüên* or Provincial graduate, he partook of the *Luh-ming* Banquet, provided by the Throne, in honour of the new graduates, and where an Ode in the Book of Poetry is chanted on the occasion. According to the petition of Su Chin-hsia, district magistrate of Juianhsien, prefecture of Wênchow, a certain ex-Commissioner of the Imperial Office of Transmission at Peking, named Huang T'î-fang, now retired, has brought to his notice the case of an aged member of the gentry of Juianhsien, named Sün Tsiang-ming, who at the time of his re-

tirement from public life held the office of a Reader of the Hanlin Yuan or Imperial Academy of Literature. The said Sün Tsiang-ming is at present seventy-seven years of age. He became a Provincial or *chüên* graduate in the examinations ordered by Special Act of Grace during the 15th year of the reign of the Emperor Taokuang (1834) standing sixty-fourth on the list, and partook of the *Luh-ming-yen* or Banquet given by Imperial Edict in honour of the new graduates that year. In 1841 he succeeded in obtaining his *Chinshih* or Metropolitan degree and was then made a Hanlin, being subsequently appointed a Hanlin Compiler of the second class, from which he became by successive promotions a Reader in the Hanlin Academy. As anyone who has completed the sixtieth anniversary of the year when first he became a *chüên*, may be allowed by Imperial Rescript the honour of attending the *Luh-ming* Banquet a second time, memorialist now asks the same favour on behalf of Sün Tsiang-ming whose antecedents he has verified in the above respect.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Rites report thereon.*

11th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) By special Act of Grace, We command that Tsêng Kuang-han (Earl of Wei-yi in succession to the late Tsêng Kuo-ch'uan) be made an expectant official of the fourth or fifth Metropolitan grade.

(2) Kuei Hêng has asked us to allow him to vacate his post and retire from public life, owing to his prolonged illness which incapacitates him from attending to his duties as President of the Board of Punishments. With reference to the above, as a special Act of Grace, we will allow him to have one month's extra leave of absence to attend to his complaints, there being no necessity at present to appoint his successor.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Earl Tsêng of Wei-yi, and Hsü Yung-yi.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Earl Tsêng of Wei-yi reported the completion of his period of mourning for his grandfather, the late first earl, Tsêng Kuo-ch'uan, and humbly asked after the Imperial health.

KILLING A FELLOW-PRISONER.

Yü Lu, Tartar-General and brevet Governor-General of Fêngtien, and Hsing

Shêng, Civil Governor of Moukden, jointly memorialise with respect to the following case of murder which has been brought to their notice through the acting district magistrate of Chêngtêhsien, Huang Yü-shêng, who also presents the petition of his gaolwarden Sha T'ing-tung, regarding the same matter. On the 13th of August last a condemned prisoner Wang Yao, while attempting to remove the bedding of a fellow-prisoner named Nieh Fêng-chih, got into a quarrel with the latter, which proceeding to blows the former hastily picked up an old hatchet used to break coal lumps with, with which he plied Nieh about the head. The men were then separated by the goalers and the affair reported to the above-named magistrate who made a personal investigation of the matter, and found that Nieh Fêng-chih had received two severe blows about the region of the right temple, from the old hatchet in question. An enquiry into the antecedents of the two prisoners showed that the injured criminal, Nieh, had been arrested for being concerned in a murder case where the said Nieh and his confederates had attacked a travelling party of four traders, with the object of plunder, and had killed and burned the bodies of their victims in order to remove all traces of the murder. Eventually, however, the deed was brought to light and Nieh and some of his confederates captured, but this man had shown much deceit and fraud, so that their case had not yet been decided at the time of this last fracas. As to the case of the man who wielded the old hatchet, Wang Yao, the said prisoner had been found guilty and condemned for stabbing and killing a stranger with whom he had quarrelled on account of some sort of debt; the sentence awarded being strangulation at the autumn criminal sessions. Notwithstanding the assistance of a skilled medical practitioner, the prisoner Nieh, after lingering three days after his fight with Wang Yao, died from the wounds he had received from the old hatchet, for such was the conclusion arrived at at the inquest held on the body of the dead man by the deputy sent for the purpose by the Taotai or Intendant of Police and Imperial Post Roads in Fêng'ien. The facts of the above case having been verified by the memorialists, they have decided that the gaolwarden Sha T'ing-tung has shown a lamentable want of care and vigilance over the conduct of the prisoners confided to his care, and so have accordingly removed the said gaolwarden from office. Memorialists request that both the district magistrate Huang Yü-shêng and

his gaolwarden should in addition be handed to the Boards for the determination of a penalty, and also ask that the execution of Wang Yao already condemned to suffer death by strangulation this autumn, be temporarily postponed until it be decided what should be done to him for attacking and killing Nieh Fêng-chih with the old hatchet.—*Rescript: Granted. Let the proper yamen take note.*

12th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let Hsi Ching be acting Captain-General of the Mongolian Bordered White Banner troops during the leave of absence granted to Kuei Hêng, incumbent of the said post and President of the Board of Punishments.

(2) Let Huai T'ah-pu be acting President of the Board of Punishments during the absence from leave of Kuei Hêng, incumbent of the said post.

(3) A number of appointments in the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

(4) The *Gioro* (member of the collateral branch of the Imperial House) Ta Ts'uen is appointed Metropolitan Police Commissioner of the Eastern Division.

(5) Chang Hsi-lu is appointed Metropolitan Police Commissioner of the Middle Division.

(6) Kuang Ling is appointed Manchu *Bitkeshi*, or Official Writer, in the Court of Censors.

(7) Shao Hu-wên is appointed assistant police magistrate of the Eastern Division.

(8) Fu-ming-a is allowed to remain in the *yamên* of the Court of Censors.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hsi Ching, acting Captain-General of the Mongolian Bordered White Banner and to Show Ch'ang.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Earl Tsêng of Weiyi humbly gives thanks for the Imperial Grace, appointing him an expectant official of the fourth or fifth Metropolitan grade. Liao Shou-hêng, Tsungli Yamên Minister, and Keng Ying-pu both have asked for five days' leave of absence from their Court duties. Kuei Hêng, President of the Board of Punishments, humbly gives thanks for being allowed one month's extra leave of absence to attend to his complaints, and for the special Act of Grace in allowing him still to retain his various appointments. Tsai Tsê, Duke of Tsêh, humbly gives thanks for being allowed to bear the "Panther's

tail Lance" while attending upon His Majesty.

No other news of interest.

13th September.

THE COURT.

His Majesty after transacting affairs of State, and after breakfast to-morrow morning, will proceed to Eho Park to present his respects to H. M. the Empress-Dowager. His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Tsao Huan-ch'ing, Wang Chên and three others.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the headquarters of the Imperial Guard, His Majesty has appointed En Yü a Chamberlain of the Palace. The Prince of K'êh and the Earl of Chao have asked for ten days' extra leave of absence.

No news of interest.

14th September.

THE COURT.

After transacting affairs of State, His Majesty will proceed to the Palace of Fasting, before going through sacrificial worship.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

En Yü humbly gives thanks for his appointment as a Chamberlain of the Palace. The Prince of Ying asks for five days' leave of absence from Court duties.

15th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Wêng T'ung-ho is appointed Chief Chancellor and Sün Yü-wên, Ch'ên Hsiao-fên and Yü Tê, Vice-Chancellors of the provincial examinations at Shunt'ienfu (Peking.)

(2) A decree appointing a number of assistant examiners of the above.

(3) A decree appointing the Proctors of the inner and outer examination halls belonging to the above.

(4) A decree appointing a number of Supervising Censors to check the theses copyists at the above examinations.

(5) Shan Lao, Deputy Captain-General of the left wing, and Chih Hêng, Deputy Captain-General of the right wing, are appointed to superintend the Police arrangements within the precincts of the examination halls on the present occasion.

(6) Chang Lien-kuei, Governor of Kuang-si, complains to us of the conduct of Ch'ên Ching-shih, the ex-district magistrate of Enlunghsien, who on leaving his post owed a considerable sum on account of the land

tax within his jurisdiction, for which misdemeanour he was degraded. According to Chang Lien-kuei's memorial, this officer has now had the audacity to return to his native city without attending to his debt or making arrangements for the repayment thereof. This conduct shows a lack of respect for the constituted authorities, and allows of no excuse. We therefore command that the Governor of Shunt'ienfu (Peking) be instructed to arrest the degraded ex-magistrate Ch'ên Ching-shih, and transport him back to the province of Kuangsi to be dealt with by the Governor there, and it is also our desire that the said ex-magistrate be given the period of six months to repay his debt, failing which, his property in his native town shall be confiscated and sold. As for the rest let it be as requested.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Grand Secretary Fu K'un has asked for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. The Grand Secretaries Lin Shu, Hsü Shu-ming, and Ming An having completed their leave of absence have reported their return to Court duties and humbly ask after the Imperial health.

THE SHANSI LAND TAXES.

Chang Hsü, Governor of Shansi, states that in accordance with the instructions of the Throne issued through the Board of Revenue, the Provincial Treasurer has sent the sum of Tls. 80,000 under the care of an expectant magistrate to Peking to be turned over to the Board of Revenue as part of the Tls. 500,000 the province of Shansi is required to send to Peking out of the land taxes of 1893. The date of departure from T'aiyuanfu of this money was the 13th of August last. There was also another sum of Tls. 20,000 belonging to the above named contribution, which memorialist has already sent to the treasury of the K'oupeh Intendancy, in obedience to the subsequent commands of the Throne, designed for the payment of the troops of Ch'ahar. The two sums thus amount to Tls. 100,000 which memorialist begs may be credited with previous instalments to Shansi for the current year in respect to the contribution named above. —Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

A NEW COMMANDER FOR THE LEFT BATTALION OF THE T'AIYUAN DISCIPLINED TROOPS.

The same high official, Chang Hsü, in a postscript memorial reports the death of Ho Chên-chung, Colonel commanding the left Battalion of the T'aiyuan disciplined

troops, and the appointment of Chang Yü-ch'ün, expectant Captain of Shansi, to be acting Commander of the same.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War take note.*

16th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ts'ên Ts'ün-jung is appointed Taotai or Intendant of the Hopèh circuit of Honan.

(2) As Wéng T'ang-ho has been ordered to preside as Chief Chancellor over the provincial examinations within the Metropolis, let Sün Chia-wei take his place as acting President of the Board of Revenue.

(3) Ts'ien Ying-p'u is appointed to act as Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and Director of the Mint, *vice* Ch'ên Hsiao-fen temporarily occupied within the examination halls as Vice-Chancellor.

(4) Li Hung-ts'ao is commanded to act as President of the Board of Punishments, *pro tem.*, during the time Sün Yü-wên is occupied with his duties as Vice-Chancellor inside the examination halls.

(5) Shou Ying is appointed Manchu Vice-President of the Board of Punishments *vice* Yü Tê now acting as Vice-Chancellor within the examination halls.

(6) The post of Deputy Captain-General of the Bordered Blue Manchu Banner, held by Yü Tê, is given *pro tem.* to Ah-k'o-tan, during the period the former officer remains within the Examination Halls.

THE COURT.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock to the Chungho Throne hall to grant audience to a number of officials recommended by the Board of Civil Appointment for promotion or appointments in the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations. His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council chamber to K'ô Mén-t'ai and Chih Yen.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the headquarters of the Imperial Household Guards, His Majesty has been pleased to appoint P'u T'ing, Duke of Na, to be Usher on the occasion of His Majesty's procession to the Chungho throne hall to-morrow morning. The Board President K'an Kang, and Chang Jen-fu and Chang Ch'ün-hai having completed their leave of absence, humbly ask after the Imperial health. The Dukes of En and Ch'eng and Tê Lung have asked for ten days' extension of leave owing to prolonged indisposition. The Consort of the eldest

Imperial Princess has asked for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties.

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER'S EXPENSES AT EHO PARK.

Hsi Yuan, Hereditary Marquis of Chuyung, Tartar-General of Fukien and Superintendent of Customs at Foochow, announces in a postscript memorial that in accordance with the Imperial commands, issued through the Board of Revenue last year to the effect that the Foochow Customs should take out of the ordinary duties collected, the annual sum of ten thousand taels, to be sent to Peking in two instalments, as a contribution towards the expenses incurred by the Empress Dowager's Court at Eho Park, he, the memorialist, sent on the 25th of August last the second and last instalment of Tls. 5,000, in respect of the above, which the memorialist begs the Throne to command the proper Board to take cognisance of.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

PAYING BACK A DEBT.

T'ang Ch'ung, Imperial Commissioner of Yunnan mines, and holding the rank of a brevet Governor, reports the payment of the balance of Tls. 60,000 into the Provincial Exchequer of Yunnan, out of the Tls. 100,000 lent by government for the encouragement of mining enterprises in that province. The first portion of Tls. 40,000 was paid on a previous occasion.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

JUDGMENT ON A FRATRICIDE.

Li Hung-chang, Senior Grand Secretary, Governor-General of Chihli, etc., begs to report to the Throne a case of premeditated fratricide and the judgment given upon case. After going through the lower courts and being verified by the Provincial Judge of Chihli, Chou Fu, it should by rights be retried by the memorialist in person; but memorialist being located at Tientsin, he could not do so conveniently and accordingly deputed Yü Ch'ang, the Provincial Treasurer, to do so instead, the papers, etc., relating to the case to be eventually sent to the memorialist for perusal and sentence. The following are the facts of the case in question: There were three brothers, Mêng Ho-shang-tze, Mêng Ying-chiu-tze and Mêng Ying-ch'u-tze (mentioned in their respective order of seniority), natives of the district of Huaianhsien. Before the murder of the eldest Mêng Ho-shang-tze by the second brother Mêng Ying-chiu-tze, the three brothers seem to have been perfectly

friendly towards one another. The eldest brother many years previously lived in a separate house of his own, while the two younger brothers lived in the old family house with their mother Mêng T'ang-shih. At the time the father of these men died there was a family estate of 20 mou which had for many years been mortgaged to strangers, which so far had not been redeemed. In the Spring of last year, the elder brother consulted the second brother as to the feasibility of redeeming the ancestral acres, it being agreed that each brother should get together what he could for the purpose, which being accomplished the land should be divided into three portions, each brother taking one. The second brother, therefore, got together a large sum of money, more than the other two and the land was eventually redeemed by the eldest brother. But the latter after getting hold of the land, on one pretence and another, delayed the dividing of the property, despite the remonstrances of the younger brothers, and especially the second who had done the most towards getting back the family property. This went on until the summer months of the present year, the eldest brother still refusing to divide with his brothers. On the 19th of August last, the second brother again went to the eldest brother's house, when a wordy war took place between the two, which was stopped by the neighbours. The next day Mêng Ying-chiu-tze went again to Mêng Ho-shang-tze's house for the same purpose—to divide the property—and the wrath of both being inflamed by mutual vituperation, the eldest, Mêng Ho-shang-tze picked up a scythe and made a rush at the second brother. The latter dodged the blow and darted out of the door into the yard, but being caught up with by Mêng Ho-shang-tze the blow was repeated on the younger brother. At this juncture, the latter made a dive at the eldest brother, and managing to wrest the scythe from his hands gave him a blow on the left side, whereupon the elder brother fell to the ground, but continued to kick the younger while in this position. Enraged at this the younger thrust the point of the scythe into the elder's left leg, accompanied by a savage cut on the right thigh and right instep. Having done so, Mêng Ying-chiu-tze, the younger, flung the weapon from him, apparently satisfied with what he had done. But the elder continued to swear at the younger, promising to get even with him when his wounds got well. This was the cause of

the murder. The younger brother thinking within himself that his life would not be worth much in the future should the elder brother recover, resolved to kill the latter in order to escape being murdered by him. So picking up a heavy block of granite, he cast it with all his strength at the recumbent form of his brother, causing fatal wounds on both sides of his temples as well as breaking in three teeth and making several cuts on the face. At the juncture, Mêng Ying Ch'u-tze, the youngest of the three, hearing the noise of strife outside, rushed out and dissuaded the second from further violence, while the latter feeling sure that the eldest would die of his wounds and thinking that he had gone far enough, ceased pounding the dying man with the granite block. Mêng Ho-shang-tze died almost immediately afterwards, and the district magistrate of Huanhsien was summoned to make the necessary inquest, after which the murderer gave himself up, frankly confessing his crime. The law provides that a younger brother killing an elder should suffer death by the *lingchih* or "lingering and shameful process," to which memorialist has sentenced Mêng Ying-chiu-tze the fratricide. In addition to the above, as the cause of the dispute which ended fatally to one of the brothers was the non-dividing of the property, memorialist has ordered that the property in question should be equally divided between the progeny of the three brothers, thus avoiding any future cause of disturbance in the family.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments speedily report thereon.*

17th September.

FLOODS IN YUNNAN.

T'an Chün-pei, Governor of Yunnan, reports that he has received a despatch from Shih Chien-chung, district magistrate of Chienshui, to the effect that in the middle of July last that district was visited by incessant rains thereby causing freshets from the mountains which rushed down into the plains with unparalleled violence, making many wide breaches in the waterways of the district and flooding entirely the townships of Sichuangpa and Awatsai to the destruction of thousands of mou of crops ready for harvest and some isolated villages at the foot of the mountains. On receipt of the news of these calamities memorialist immediately despatched deputies to the scene to enquire the amount of damage done by the freshets as well as to see about the relief of the people belonging to the inundated district.

Orders have also been sent for the purchase of stone and materials for the bunding of the breaches and gaps.—*Receipt: Noted.*

A CLAIM ON THE COUNTRY.

Fu Yün, holding the Brevet rank of a Board President and Governor of Shantung, states that two years ago, His Majesty was graciously pleased to confer, on the recommendation of the Boards of Civil Appointments and of War, the hereditary rank of the 8th Order of Nobility upon the descendants of an expectant prefect named K'ung Chao-ts'ai, who lost his life while engaged in dangerous work connected with the breaching of a gap in the Yellow River. At the same time the heirs of a military Provincial graduate named Ma Chün-liang and Sergeant Ch'en Pao-yuan, who also lost their lives contemporaneously with that of the above-named prefect, were given the sum of Tls. 150 each, equal to the Government grant given to the heir of a First-lieutenant who had done some service to his country, together with the privilege of bearing the rank of an expectant Second-lieutenant in the army. These grants were given at the end of the government of the late Governor of the province, Chang Yao, but owing to this officer's sudden death at the time, the smallness of the above grants has not been brought to the notice of the Throne. Now, however, that memorialist has had time to look over the matter, he also holds the opinion borne by the Provincial Treasurer of Shantung and the Taoais connected with the Yellow River works, that the grants mentioned above were not proportionate to the circumstances under which the said officers lost their lives. As a precedent for the matter in view, ten years ago when the Vice-President Yeu Pêh-ch'uan was in charge of the Yellow River works, a sergeant named Chin Yü-si lost his life under similar circumstances to those in which the above-named Ma Chün-liang and Ch'en Pao-yuan lost theirs; in other words, at a time of great danger when but for their daring and devotion it would have been impossible to breach a gap in the river, and but for these officers, many tens of thousands of taels would have had to be used to consummate the work in hand. "In such instances," to quote the memorial of the said Vice-President Yeu Pêh-ch'uan on the subject, "the death of Chin Yü-si must be considered in every way equal to that of having met his death on the battle field, fighting against the enemies of his country." Hence the said memorialist

considered that the Sergeant Chin Yü-si, deserved the recognition of the government for his heroic death, and that in consideration of his rank, which was a small one, the least the government could do, in order to stimulate the energies of others, was to give the heirs of the deceased Sergeant the hereditary rank in perpetuity of the military division of the 7th Order of Nobility. As has been already stated, the subjects of this memorial coincide in every detail with the case quoted above, and the memorialist asks that His Majesty will reconsider the former grants and ennoble the heirs of Ma Chün-liang and Ch'en Pao-yuan.—*Receipt: Let the Board of War confer thereon.*

18th September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let the first son of Tsai Ying, a Noble of the Imperial Lineage ninth in line of descent, be named P'u H-ing.

THE COURT.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock to the Ancestral Shrines and the temple of Imperial Longevity, and after worship will return to the Lakes.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Jui and his colleagues reported this morning the completion of their duties at the examinations of the Manchu students. Sung Shêng, Siu Chih and Fêng Wên-yü having completed their leaves of absence report their return to Court duties and humbly ask after the Imperial health.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHIHLI INUNDATION FUND.

E-kô-tang-a, Military Governor of Heilungchiang (Amur district), states that he was profoundly struck with sympathy for the sufferings of the famine-stricken people in the districts inundated by the recent floods, and hence telegraphed to his various subordinates to collect and subscribe money to aid the effects of government in trying to relieve the distress. So far, in addition to his own subscription, there have been collected Tls. 10,000—"a cup of water in subduing the flames of a cartload of fire-wood"—which in consideration of the importance of the matter, he has determined to send by telegraph to the Famine Relief Commissioners at Peking, instead of expending the money in buying grain to be shipped to the capital, knowing well that this would consume time at a moment when

every hour might mean a life lost. Memorialist, therefore, requests the Throne to notify the Governor of Shuntienta of the draft he is sending, which has been done with no thought of any reward on behalf of himself or his colleagues who have subscribed this sum.—*Receipt: Let the proper yamen take note.*

19th September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Yü K'uan, Governor of Honan, has denounced to us the conduct of the gaolwarden of Méngtsinhsien, named Wang Chên, through whose presumed carelessness an important prisoner named Lien Chu-tze managed to escape from gaol. We command, therefore, that the said gaolwarden be cashiered, and that Yü K'uan personally try the man and his assistants to find out whether any bribery has been used, or whether there was any surreptitious unloosening of the prisoner's bonds which favoured his escape. If it be proved so, then let Yü K'uan punish the said Wang Chên and his assistants to the full extent of the law. The officer in whose yamen was the gaol, that is to say, the chehsien of Méngtsinhsien, Li Tien, having satisfactorily proved that he was not in his yamen at the time of the escape of the prisoner, but occupied on affairs of State in another part of the district, might so far be excused, but let him be given a certain limit of time to recapture the escaped prisoner, failing which let him be dealt with as if present during the breaking of gaol, and denounced for lack of vigilance.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Chin Sing, Deputy Captain-General of the Peking Field Force.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the headquarters of the Bordered Yellow Banner of the Chinese Bannermen, His Majesty has deputed the Duke of Kuei and Kuo La-min to inspect the target practice of field artillery belonging to the abovenamed Banner at Lukou Bride. Tsai Ying, a Noble of the Imperial Lineage, ninth in line of descent, gave thanks for the name bestowed by His Majesty on the former's eldest son. The Duke of Yü, having completed his duties at the temple belonging to the White Dragon Lake, reports his return to the Capital and humbly asks after the Imperial health. The Duke of Yung has asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court owing to prolonged indisposition.

REPAIRING AND STRENGTHENING THE WALLS OF NANKING.

Liu K'uan-yi, Governor-General of the Liangkiang provinces, reports that since the time when the city of Nanking was retaken from the rebels in the sixties, its ninety *li* (about thirty miles) in circumference of walls have never been repaired, and have ever since been in a deplorable state. During the previous terms of memorialist as Governor-General of these provinces he has often wished to undertake the repairs of these walls but as often was compelled to give up the project owing to the immense sum which would be required to be spent on such a stupendous work. Since, however, the establishment of a fund for the repairs of the embankments of the three rivers of Nanking, a sum of Tls. 100,000 was collected by degrees which memorialist asked permission last year to use for the object in view, and because the money was not required for the embankment. The Throne's permission having been obtained, memorialist immediately ordered Jui Chang to preside over the work of repairing, rebuilding and strengthening the walls of Nanking city, having as his associates in the task the acting Colonel of the Middle Battalion of the Viceroy's command named Liu Kuang-t'ai and Li T'ing-siao, prefect of Kiangning. Work therefore commenced on the 23rd of April, 1892, and was finished on the 20th of December. Memorialist then deputed certain officers to make a careful examination of the work, and according to their report everything has been done in a conscientious manner without haste or waste. Owing to the use of the soldiers lying at quarters to assist skilled workmen and the lucky find of over 100,000 sound and serviceable bricks among the debris of the old walls, the actual expenses were considerably less than would otherwise have been the case. According to the custom that obtains in such cases six months had to elapse before a full report could be made on the soundness and durability of the work on the city walls, and this having passed without any mishap to the new works and after passing through all sorts of weather, memorialist after obtaining the signed and sealed guarantees of the two officers named in this memorial, now begs to present the accounts of the sums expended on the said work. There were spent Tls. 58,244 on the repairs to the walls and adding new battlements; for building nine watch towers and night beacons on the walls, Tls. 26,300; for repairing the watch

towers or building new ones at the various city gates Tls. 10,178; for repairing the official reception stations at the various city gates and the city gates themselves, Tls. 5,855; for repairing or building new barriers and barracks for the gate guards Tls. 8,217; making a total of Tls. 108,780, disbursed on the works which includes a deduction of Tls. 16, obtained by the sale of sundry old materials belonging to the old walls. As there were only Tls. 100,000 available from the funds named above, the excess of Tls. 8,780 was advanced by the Provincial Treasurer, Jui Chang, from the Provincial Exchequer. As this huge work of thirty miles of brick-work, etc., has been done with care and has shown good results, memorialist thinks that the two officers principally concerned in superintending it should be rewarded for their unflagging energy and carefulness in the duties imposed upon them and now asks the Imperial permission to name Colonel Liu Kuang-t'ai and Li T'ien-siao, prefect of Kiangning.—*Rescript: Let the two officers named be turned over to the Boards of Civil Appointments and War, who shall recommend the highest scale of reward possible for persons in their stations in rank, and let the Board of War pass the accounts presented in this memorial.*

No other news of interest.

20th September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Shou Ying is appointed Deputy Captain-General of the Blue Chinese (H-nchün) Banner.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Wang Ming-lian and Chang Ying-huan. His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning, after transacting State affairs and breakfast, to Eho Park to pay his periodical visit to H.M. the Empress Dowager after which His Majesty will return to the Lakes.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty has appointed the Eunuch Yung Shan to carry the memorials of officials to the Dragon Table, during Audience days. The Prince of Lien has asked for five days' leave of absence from Court duties. The Grand Secretary Fu K'un has asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. The Prince of Ying has asked for twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court owing to prolonged illness.

TAKING OVER AN ACTING APPOINTMENT.

Wên Kuang, an officer of the second brevet button, and Provincial Judge of

Szechuan, humbly begs to report to the Throne the fact of his appointment to the Acting Treasurership of the province. On the 5th of July last, memorialist received a notification from Liu Ping-chang, Governor-General of the province, announcing that he had been selected to fill the acting Treasurership of Szechuan, *vice* Kung Chao-yuan called to Peking for an Imperial audience; but it was not until the 8th of August the memorialist received the Treasurer's seals and insignia of office from Kung Chao-yuan. Memorialist here begs to give thanks to the Throne for this mark of Imperial favour; being diffident as to his ability in filling properly the duties of his new post, he promises to do nothing without first consulting with the Governor-General.—*Rescript: Noted.*

21st September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Li Hung-chang, Governor-general of Chihli, has asked us to grant permission to Chu Tê-chêng, an officer of the 3rd brevet button, and an expectant prefect of Chêkiang, who has passed the age of eighty years, to proceed a second time to the *Luminous* Banquet held in honour of the newly-fledged *Chujên* who obtained their degrees during the late Provincial Examinations held at Peking, the said applicant having completed the sixtieth anniversary since first he attended that Banquet as a newly graduated *Chujên*. With reference to the above request, while according it, we farther command that the said Octogenarian, Chu Tê-chêng, be given the brevet rank of the second button as a mark of Imperial recognition of the auspicious event, and of the great age the said official has attained to.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the Board of Punishments His Majesty has appointed the Grand Secretaries Chang Chih-wan and Liu Shu to be the Chief Commissioners and K'un Kang, Sung Kuei, Ching Sing, Ching Shan, K'ô Mên-tai and Wang Ming-luan to be assistant Commissioners of the Board to confirm the sentences made on the criminals who are to suffer the extreme penalty of the law during the autumn months. The Prince of Li and his colleagues gave thanks for the Imperial gifts of silks and satins made yesterday. The Prince of Jui reported the completion of his duties at the recent Examination.

CHANGING A SURNAME.

Chang Lien-kuei, Governor of Kuangsi, asks for the Imperial clemency to allow a

correction to be made with reference to the surname of an official whose real surname is Chang (張) P'ing but who by a clerical error in the list of promotions recommended recently to the Throne was written Chang (章) P'ing. The said official distinguished himself in matters relating to the borders of the province and was recommended to the rank of deputy magistrate after he shall have filled the post of a police magistrate. The recommendation made was in the name of Chang (章) P'ing but as in the duplicate list his right surname of Chang (張) was given the Board of Civil Appointment have refused to sanction the second but proper surname. Memorialist therefore asks as a special favour that the Throne shall command the proper Board to revise the clerical error which was no fault of the official in question, but of a clerk belonging to memorialist's staff. —*Rescript*; *Let the Board of Civil Appointment take note.*

ESCAPE AND CAPTURE OF AN EXILE.

Kuang-yü-i-p'u-ying-lien, Commissioner of the Military postroads, reports that a degraded official by the name of Wên Tu, who had been sent to him as an exile to expiate his offences as a convict on the military postroad beyond Kalgan, successfully escaped back to Kalgan on the 23rd of July last. As soon, however, as memorialist received news of the man's escape, he at once gave orders to the military police at Kalgan to search for the missing convict. Subsequently memorialist was informed by the said police that they had succeeded in recapturing the run-away on the 30th of August in a kitchen-garden on Egg-plant Hill beyond the Chanyü Barrier of the Great Wall. Memorialist then deputed the sub-prefect of Huachow to make an enquiry as to the causes of the convict's escape; but the latter on being summoned to court attempted to commit suicide by cutting himself with a broken porcelain cup which he had broken for the purpose. The sub-prefect therefore went himself to the place of the convict's confinement, to investigate the matter, but found that the said Wên Tu had injured himself but slightly, while on the other hand the mother and wife of the said convict made a good deal of disturbance, stating that Wên Tu refused to recognise the authority of the sub-prefect who was a Chinese, and that as a bannerman he had the right to demand that his case be turned over to the Board of Punishments. The same

objections were made by the convict himself, who further said that he tried to commit suicide because he thought that he was going to be turned over to the sub-prefect for trial, in which case he preferred death. Memorialist, however, forced the man to submit to the examination by the sub-prefect who elicited the above facts of the case, to which the said convict further added that the reason of his escape was the unbearable and half-starved life he had to lead as a convict on the military postroads. Memorialist therefore takes the present opportunity to turn the said Wên Tu over to the Board of Punishments with request that he be punished to the full extent of the law for his attempted escape and contempt for the laws of the land.—*Rescript*: *Let the Board of Punishments try the man and deal out to him the proper measure of punishment.*

22nd September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Let the student Chin K'ô-liang and the man Kuo Ch'ang-hsing who addressed us yesterday by the road side be turned over to the Board of Punishments and let their cases be thoroughly investigated by the said Board.

(2) A decree commanding that the grain held in reserve for such occasions, and such extra aid as shall be required, be forthwith distributed with regard to the ever-increasing numbers of refugees from the famine districts that are now flocking to the capital with the approach of the cold weather. Of the 100,000 piculs of tribute rice now in the hands of Li Hung-chang, for distribution to the famine sufferers outside of the Metropolitan prefecture, let 50,000 piculs be forthwith sent to Peking by the said Governor-General to assist in the preparations that should be made during the coming winter.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Liao Shou-hêng and Yung Kâei.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Ching Sing to inspect the firing of the field artillery of the Peking Field Force that is to take place at Lukou Bridge. Liao Shou-hêng, Fan Kung-hsi, Wên Jui, having completed their leave of absence report their return to Court duties and humbly ask after the Imperial health. The Duke of Ling asks for ten days' leave of absence from Court and Hsi Ching asks for five days' extra leave on account of family affairs.

A LUNATIC MURDERS HIS MOTHER.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, reports a case of a lunatic named Li Siao-yuan who, while known to be crazy, was allowed to be at liberty by his family without his case being reported to the local authorities, to avoid his being kept under bonds by them. The murder happened on the 21st of May last, in the district of Itushien; but the case was sent on to the capital Tsinanfa, in order to be under the personal superintendence of the memorialist himself. It seems that on the day named above the said matricide while in a fit of lunacy was observed by his mother Li Wan-shih in the front yard of the house playing with an iron instrument used for agricultural purposes. Thereupon the mother approached the son and tried to take away the weapon, but the lunatic resisted and in the struggle beat down his mother. At this moment the lunatic's aunt, hearing the noise of conflict, rushed out and saw the lunatic still swinging the iron instrument and dancing over his dying mother's body. She then called out for aid and by the assistance of other members of the family secured the lunatic. The matter was afterwards reported to the *che-hsien* of Itu who arrested the matricide and the male members of the family and the immediate neighbours. These were then sent up to the memorialist who having verified the facts of the case, sentenced Li Siao-yuan, the murderer, as a matter of course, to die by the *lingchi* (lingering and shameful) process, which is in accordance with the law providing that this be the form of death to anyone, sane or insane, who kills his parents, intentionally or unintentionally. As the law demands that the male members of the family or immediate neighbours should report any case of insanity to the local authorities, under pain of a sentence of one hundred blows of the big bamboo, memorialist has dealt the above punishment to the male members of the lunatic's family and the immediate neighbours, and has further degraded the *tipao* of the district, in addition to his allowance of 100 blows of the bamboo, for failing to report Li Siao-yuan's lunacy to the magistrate of Itushien.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.*

23rd September.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Chang Ch'i-kuang, A-k'o-tan-pu and I Nien.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Jui humbly begs to give thanks for the Imperial gifts in honour of his birthday. The Prince of K'ò and the Duke of Chi have both asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Chang Ch'i-kuang, Brigadier-General of Chékiang, reports his arrival at Peking and humbly asks after the Imperial Health.

No other news of interest.

24th September.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hwai T'a-pu and Lih Shan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Jui and his colleagues report the completion of their duties at the Examination Halls. The Duke of P'eh has asked for twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

No other news of interest.

25th September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Huei Jung is appointed prefect of Ninghsia, in Kansu province.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Wang Yü-tsoo, ex-Provincial Treasurer of Shantung, and Hsü Shü-ming.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Beilèh Lien (Prince of the 4th Order) having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties and humbly asks after the Imperial Health. Wang Yü-tsoo, ex-Provincial Treasurer of Shantung, reports his arrival at Peking after having completed the prescribed term of mourning for his parent. The Marquis of Sing has asked for twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court duties owing to prolonged indisposition.

No other news of interest.

26th September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Yü Ching-shèng is appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Battalion stationed at Ch'eng-chiuk'ou, province of Chihli.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Fêng Ming and Ying Nien. Shan Lao and his colleagues having completed their duties as Preservers of the Peace in the recent Examination Halls and vicinity, reported their return to Court duties in person to His Majesty.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Wéng T'ung-ho, appointed by the Throne as Chief Chancellor of the recent *chujén* examinations held in the Capital, and his colleagues presented a memorial this morning to the Throne reporting the result of their Commission. The Prince of Lien (4th Order) humbly gave thanks for the Imperial birthday gifts given by Their Majesties the Empress Dowager and Emperor, on the occasion of his fifty-sixth birthday anniversary. The Duke of En, having completed his leave of absence, reported his return to Court duties to-day.

No other news of interest.

27th September.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

With reference to the memorial of Chang Yuan-p'u, Controller of Seals, asking that extra measures might be taken on behalf of the famine refugees that have been flocking to the capital lately, we command Sun Chia-nai and his colleagues to take the necessary steps for the purpose, in consideration of the magnitude of the recent floods, the distresses arising from which are fully equal to the famine of 1883-4.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Grand Secretary Lin Shu, to Ts'ao Fu-shéng, and Yü T'ung.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the headquarters of the Plain White Banner of the Hanchün or Chinese Bannermen, His Majesty has appointed the Earl of Hsing to proceed to the Ming Ling Imperial Mausolea and sacrifice there on behalf of His Majesty. The Prince of Jui and his colleagues reported this morning the results of their Commission at the recent examinations for the *chujén* degree. The T'ü or Provincial Commander-in-chief, Ts'ao Fu-shéng, gave thanks this morning for his recent appointment. Yü T'ung, lately appointed Colonel of the Manchu battalion stationed at Ninghsia, province of Kansu, also gave thanks this morning for his appointment. Hsi Ching, having completed his leave of absence, reported his return to Court duties and humbly asked after the Imperial health.

COLLEGE ENDOWMENT.

Yü K'uan, Governor of Honan, begs to bring to the notice of the Throne the case of a certain member of the gentry of Lushihhsien, Honan, named Liu Chên-yuan, whose father, although himself unable to obtain a degree

at the literary examinations, always took an interest during his lifetime in the welfare of the literary institutions of his district. Shortly before his death recently, seeing that the *Sui-yuan* College in his native city was insufficiently endowed with funds for the maintenance of indigent students of Lushihhsien, and anxious that his native district should make a mark in literary competitions, the father of the said Liu Chên-yuan told him that he wished that the sum of Tls. 1,000 should be laid aside after his death in order that it might be given in his name to the *Sui-yuan* College, the interest from which sum should be given to support indigent students of merit. This bequest of his father, the said Liu Chên-yuan now makes to the *Sui-yuan* College, and the matter being reported to the memorialist by the district magistrate of Lushihhsien, the memorialist considers that the father of the said Liu Chên-yuan should be rewarded, according to precedent, with an Imperial gift of a tablet containing the words "He was fond of charity and given to good deeds," the same to be handed to the son Liu Chên-yuan in recognition of his father's endowment of the *Sui-yuan* College.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the Board of Rites take note.*

28th September.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) A decree appointing some fifty odd officers to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

(2) Li Hung-chang has asked us to allow that the fees and rentals of lands belonging to the various Princes and Nobles of Manchu and Banner descent in the province of Chihli, should be reduced this year and until further notice in consideration of the floods that have obstructed agriculture during the past season. As this is in the interest of the poor cultivators of the soil who till the hereditary appanages of the Princes and Nobility, we command that it should be as requested, and that the proper Board should take note of it.

(3) Shên Chia-pên is appointed prefect of Tientsin vice Tsou lately deceased.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Sun Chieh and Hsi Ching. His Majesty intends to proceed to-morrow morning, after breakfast and the transaction of State affairs, to Eho Park to pay his usual periodical visit to the Empress Dowager to ask after his Imperial Aunt's health, after which His Majesty will return to the Lakes.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the Minor Court of Sacrificial Worship, His Majesty has appointed Prince Ying to sacrifice in His Majesty's stead at the Ancestral Shrines. Pao Chün, newly appointed to the Colony of the Manchu battalion at Chingchow (Hupeh), and Pao Ch'ên, appointed to the Colony of the Manchu battalion at Chihchow, both gave thanks this morning for their appointments. Sün Chieh, Governor of Shuntienfu (Peking), reported this morning the completion of his duties as Proctor of the *chujên* examinations held recently at the Capital.

INSUFFICIENT RECOGNITION OF MILITARY SERVICES.

Sha-k'ô-lü-lin-tea-pu, Assistant Military Governor of Kirin, requests in a postscript memorial, that the Throne shall grant further recognition of the military services of two officers who distinguished themselves during the sectarian insurrection in Chaoyang, Manchuria, last winter, by wiping out the sectaries of Yent'unghan and mounted banditti of the Eastern Hills who tried to take advantage of the disturbed state of affairs in Northern Chihli and Manchuria, by setting up their own standard and murdering and robbing the country for miles around. The two officers in question are Fu Liu-pu, an officer of the first grade of the Imperial Bodyguards and Commander-in-Chief of the "Chih" Brigade of Kirin, and Kô Lu-tai, a Colonel in the Imperial Guards and Commander of the Left Wing Supplementary regiment. In recommending these two deserving officers to the Throne, memorialist asked that they should be rewarded by being given the first offer that should occur of an assistant Military Governorship; but he regrets that the Board of War should have considered the recommendations to have been in excess of their services and simply considered that they only deserved promotion of one step of substantive rank. Memorialist, however, does not hold that opinion and now requests His Majesty to command that Board to reconsider their decision.—*Rescript: Let the Board of War report thereon.*

29th September.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Shên Chia-pên and Tsao Huan-ch'ing, the newly appointed prefects of Tientsin and Changsha, Hunan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Shên Chia-pên, gave thanks to His Majesty this morning for his appointment. Tsao Huan-ch'ing also gave thanks this morning for being made an expectant Taotai while holding the post of prefect. To'ing Jui gave thanks for his appointment as Junior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction for the Heir-Apparent. Sung Kuei, President of the Board of Punishments, has been appointed by His Majesty to inspect the Banner troops at their annual review.

FOREIGN CUSTOMS RECEIPTS OF KANSU.

Yang Ch'ang-tsun, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent and Governor-General of the Shênkan provinces, in a report on the recently established Customs at the Chiayü gate of the Great Wall, leading from Kansu province through to the New Dominion and the Russian possessions in Central Siberia, states that commencing from the 3rd of July 1892 to the 22nd of June 1893, or one lunar year, the Customs receipts on transit passes received at the said gate amounted to only Tls. 74, 9 mace and 3 candareens, from which must be deducted the usual percentage allowed to such institution, to wit, 8 mace and 9 candareens thus making the actual receipts for the government of Tls. 74 and 3 candareens. Memorialist having verified the above accounts now humbly begs leave to present them for His Majesty's perusal.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.*

SURREPTITIOUS SALE OF AMMUNITION.

T'an Chung-lin, Governor-General of the Minché provinces, reports a case where an officer in the army surreptitiously sold a quantity of ammunition brought over from the capital, Foochow, for drilling purposes amongst the troops of Yen'ingfu. According to the petition of the Colonel Commandant of Yen'ingfu, Lai An-pang, who in conjunction with the prefect of that city tried the case, it seems that last year the said Colonel sent a lieutenant named Li Tu to Foochow to get the necessary powder, bullets, and rope fuses for drilling the troops during the year 1892. But on arrival of the ammunition it was found that there were wanting 150 cattiees of saltpetre (foreign), 50 cattiees of sulphur, 698 cattiees of bullets, and the whole supply of 895 cattiees odd of gunpowder, and 3,360 coils of rope fuses. In view of this, therefore, the said Colonel sent all who were concerned in the shortage to Foochow, and memorialist deputed the prefect of the latter city to re-try the case. The soldiers Lu Chin-piao and Hung Shéng-piao deposed that in 1892 they were

ordered by their lieutenant Li Tu to take charge of a boat laden with foreign saltpetre, sulphur, and bullets, with which they started from Foochow for their headquarters in Yen'pingfu. The warlike materials under their charge arrived safely at their destination with no shortage whatever. But when their lieutenant's boat arrived at Yen'pingfu they were astonished to see so little on board and asked the reason why. They were told to keep quiet and further assured that they had nothing to do with the matter if it should leak out. The sergeant in charge of the barrack police and the corporal in charge of the ammunition storehouse deposed that they noted the shortage and reported the same to their Colonel who made a personal investigation and found that their report was correct. According to the evidence of the said lieutenant in charge of the transport of the above-named materials and ammunition, the said Li Tu stated that he had been ordered by a letter from his First Captain Ch'en Sih-shou to sell the gunpowder, saltpetre, sulphur, bullets, and rope fuses that were wanting; but notwithstanding this the said Li Tu failed to produce the letter which he accused the First Captain of writing. On the other hand the said First Captain Ch'en Sih-shou made many prevarications by which there was an intention to implicate his Colonel. He said that their Colonel Lai An-pang had used the pay of the regiment and that he (witness) had accordingly been put to great straits for want of money. In addition to the sentence of cashierment pronounced at the time of the discovery of the shortage upon the said lieutenant Li Tu, memorialist intends to keep him in prison until he makes good the amount defrauded from the government, after which he will be banished for a number of years. As to the First Captain, although there was no written evidence of complicity against him, still his implied desire to inculcate his senior officer should not go unpunished, as well as the fault of not reporting to his senior officer the moment he heard of the theft that had been committed. Memorialist therefore requests an edict from the Throne cashiering the said officer Ch'en Sih-shou. The man Chang Shou-shan who was the agent who effected the sale of the above named ammunition and warlike materials at Foochow is now at large and has not been arrested, so far. His case, therefore, will be dealt with the moment he is captured.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments confer thereon and report to us.*

30th September.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Board Presidents K'un Kang and Chin Sing, Senior President of the Court of Censors.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty has appointed Tè Shou to sacrifice in his stead at the temple dedicated to faithful ministers of the Dynasty. Li Jui-fên, being appointed to inspect the works at the Western Mansolea asked for instructions. The Grand Secretary Fu K'un and the Duke of Yung having completed their leave of absence report their return to Court duties.

No other news of interest.

1st October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council to Fu Ting-chên, Liao Shou-fêng, and A-k'ò-tan. His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock sharp, to sacrifice at the Temple of Imperial Longevity.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Fu Ting-chên, Brigadier-general of Ichang, Hupeh, reported his arrival at Peking and humbly asked after the Imperial health. Liao Shou-fêng, Provincial Treasurer of Honan, asked for Imperial instructions before proceeding to his post. Wêng T'ung-ho reported the completion of his duties at the recent literary examinations for the *chujên* degree.

RETRENCHMENTS IN MANCHURIA.

Yü Lü, Brevet Governor-General and Tartar General of Fêngtien, reports that in accordance with previous instructions issued by the Boards, he is now preparing the semi-annual accounts of the expenditure of the disciplined troops of Lower Manchuria. As there is urgent need of reform in the expenses of these troops, he has now the satisfaction of reporting that he has succeeded in retrenching for the past six months, commencing the 1st day of the 1st moon this year to the end of the 6th moon, the sum of T'is. 28,576.16, which he has put down to the accounts of the disciplined regiments, and the Chiehshêng and Ch'angshêng battalions.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

SURVEY MAPS OF CHEKIANG PROVINCE.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chêkiang, now reports the completion of the survey maps of the eleven prefectures, which include

seventy-eight departments and districts, of the province of Chêkiang which he in conjunction with the Governors-General and Governors of other provinces was commanded to perform, at the instance of the Department in charge of the Collected Institutes of the Empire. Memorialist is now sending the maps in question, which consist of one map for the whole province with a scale of 100 li to the square inch; one map for each prefecture with a scale of 50 li to the square inch; and a map for each department or district, with a scale of 10 li to the square inch, the whole being bound into a work of twelve volumes. The entire work on the maps is new and thorough, owing to His Majesty's commands that in no case would any allowance be made for such makeshifts as copying old maps contained in the ancient geographies and histories of the various prefectures and departments. The instruments used for surveying were in each case provided by the Committee appointed by memorialist to take charge of the work in hand and memorialist also congratulates himself that the expenses incurred in this gigantic work were entirely defrayed from extra revenues and not from the proper exchequer.—*Rescript: Noted.*

2nd October.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

At the instance of the Board of Works, His Majesty has appointed Wang Ming-luan to inspect the work on repairs at the Western Mausolea. His Majesty has appointed Sung Kuei, President of the Board of Punishments, to inspect the repairs on the old and new barracks of the Banner troops inside the Capital. The Vice-President, Heng Chün, has asked for twenty days' extra leave of absence from his duties on the ground of prolonged illness.

No other news of interest.

3rd October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We deeply regret to hear of the death of the late Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, Ts'ing K'ò, who from a member of the Imperial Academy of Learning (Hanlin Yuan) gradually rose to the post recently vacated by him on the ground of prolonged illness which has ended in his death. We feel the loss of a faithful and devoted servant who distinguished himself by his assiduity and diligence both in affairs relating to internal as well as foreign matters. In addition to the usual grant from the Imperial Treasury

accorded to the family of a person of his rank, we command that the faults of the late Ts'ing K'ò be erased from the records.

(2) With reference to the memorial of the Grand Court of Sacrificial Worship, let Long Chin go in our stead to offer sacrifices at the Temple dedicated to the Sovereigns of the Various Dynasties, and let Ching Shan, K'ò Mên-t'ai, Shou Ying and Chih Jui offer worship at the Minor Courts of the same Temple.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Fèn Ch'è.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Sung Kuei, President of the Board of Punishments, gave thanks this morning for his appointment as Commissioner of the Old and New Banner Barracks of the capital. At the instance of the Inner Household Department, His Majesty has appointed Ch'ung Kuang and Ch'ang Yu to sacrifice at the Temples of the Tutelary Guardians of the Inner and Outside Cities of the capital. Ts'ai Shu, Prince of the 3rd Order, has been appointed by the Throne to sacrifice at the shrines of the Imperial ancestors.

THE NEW CHEKIANG PROVINCIAL JUDGE.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chêkiang, in a postscript memorial announces the taking over of the seals of office by Tsao Shu-ch'iao, the ex-Taotai of Wênchow, lately appointed by the Throne to be Provincial Judge of Chêkiang. On the arrival at Hangchow of the said Tsao Shu-ch'iao to undertake the duties of his new post, memorialist has ordered the acting Judge Hwei Nien to return to his own post as Salt Commissioner of the province, and the acting Salt Commissioner Wang Tsu-kuang to return to his duties of Taotai of the Hangchow, Chiahsing and Huchow circuit. An account of this has also been sent to the Governor-General of Min-Chê, T'an Chung-lin.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

A CHUEN DENOUNCED.

Lu Ch'uan-lin, Governor of Shênai, reports that in consequence of the receipt of a petition from the district magistrate of Chou-chih-sien, Li Ju-hò, denouncing the outrageous and undignified conduct of a provincial graduate or *chü-fên* named Kung Ping-nan belonging to the district above-named, the memorialist has been compelled to ask the sanction of the Throne to cashier the said *chü-fên* in order that an example might be given to the *litterati* of the province by the punishment according

to law of an unruly member of their class. According to the petition of Li Ju-hó first named, it seems that the said district magistrate had already heard of the unsavoury reputation of the *chujé* Kung Ping-nan, who had been guilty several times of using force in settling the affairs of his neighbours in Chouchih sien, and by the influence of his position as a member of the *literati* committing several acts of injustice upon the country people of the district, all of whom being in mortal fear of the *chujé* in question despite the assurances of the petitioning magistrate, manifested considerable unwillingness to testify or give evidence against the man. Having no decided proofs to go by, therefore, the petitioning magistrate had so far refrained from attempting to bring Kung Ping-nan to justice. Recently, however, a man named Ma Wan-k'uei, a native of Chouchih sien, appeared before the said magistrate accusing his cousin, the widow Ma Wên-shih, of the crime of poisoning his own sister's son, one Ma Yung-ching, who died on the 12th of January last, the deceased having been before death the *major domo* or steward in charge of the widow (who was also his aunt), Ma Wên-shih's estate. An examination into the accusation, however, revealed many inaccuracies, at the end of which the accuser, Ma Wan-k'uei, confessed that he was absent from home at the time of the death of his nephew, and that on his return he had been persuaded to lodge the charge at the instance of the said *chujé* Kung Ping-nan. Also that on enquiry of his own sister, the mother of the deceased, she had sworn that "her son had died of sickness naturally contracted; that the widow was falsely accused; and that he, Ma Wan-k'uei, should not listen to the evil counsels of others in bringing such charges against the widow, etc." An investigation made by the magistrate corroborated the above confession, and upon the *chujé* Kung Ping-nan being summoned, the latter, relying on his position and influence, showed great deceit and obstinacy, stoutly denying his guilt and defying the magistrate to do his worst. In view of these actions of a member of the *literati*, and the manifest want of self-respect and evil conduct of the *chujé* Kung Ping-nan, and, moreover, at the recommendations also of the Provincial Treasurer and Judge of Shên si, memorialist would ask the Imperial permission to cashier the said Kung Ping-nan in order that he may be turned over to the local authorities for punishment, and an example set for the cleansing of the

literary ranks.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested, and let the proper yamen take note.*

WHOLESALE EXECUTION OF SECTARIANS.

The same high official reports that in the semi-rising of a band of sectarians of the province on the 9th of October 1892, the head of the movement being a man who styled himself the "King of the South," but which on account of the vigilance of the provincial troops was unable to make any headway, and so was confined to desultory robberies and pillage, the officials of the infested districts have been able to capture at different times no less than eighteen of the most important member of the band. A trial of the men by their various captors proved that fifteen of them had either been taken red-handed or had confessed to having been implicated in some robbery or another, with arms in their hands, while the other three had been inveigled into joining the band and on the whole were so far clean-handed as that they had not joined in any robbery although they had been given some share of the plunder. In view of these circumstances, memorialist therefore commanded the immediate decapitation of the fifteen sectarians with exposure of their heads at the different scenes of their crimes, and that the other three should be banished to some distant spot after a certain period of incarceration during which time they were to be fastened each to a heavy piece of granite chained to their ankles, which they were forced to carry in their hands if they desired to walk about.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishment take note.*

4th October.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

We are grieved to learn of the death of the Senior Vice-President of the Board of War, Hung Chün, who from the ranks of a metropolitan graduate and Hanlin gradually rose to the post of a Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat (Second rank Class B) from which post he was sent as a Minister to foreign countries. On his return from abroad, we having great respect for his talents and faithfulness, made him Vice-President of the Board of War, and for his experience in foreign affairs further placed him as a Minister of the Tsungli Yamen. While attending with diligence and laborious energy to his duties in connection with these posts, Hung Chün fell a victim to overwork and the climate. Repeated leave of absence failed to give him the needed rest and health so that he has died in the prime of his life,

and our heart feels much sympathy for his family and pity for ourselves at losing the loyal services of a faithful Minister. Let the proper Board report what mark of honour and pecuniary grant should be given to the deceased statesman, and let him have in addition the usual grant and ceremonies due to a Vice-President of a Board. Let also any faults of his be erased from the records, and as a mark of special favour let his son Hung Luh, now a student Under-Secretary of the Board of Works, upon completion of his usual period of mourning be made a full Under-Secretary of that Board. This we command in order to show our sympathy for the loss, and perfect appreciation of the value, of a faithful servant.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Chih Yuan, Brigadier-General of T'ai-ning, Wang Ming-luan, and Shou Ying.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Yü Shu, husband of the Eighth Imperial Princess, has been appointed by His Majesty to inspect the artillery practice of the Naval brigade on Lake K'unming. In respect to the memorial of the headquarters of the Imperial Guards, His Majesty has appointed Tsai Ying, Prince of the 3rd Order and four others of the Guards to command a company as a guard at the First Chamber of the Paoho Throne Hall during the Palace examinations of the new *chü-fên* graduates, and P'u Lün, Prince of the 4th Order with four other officers to command a company of the Guards stationed in the Second Chamber of the Throne Hall. The Duke of Chi has asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Chih Yuan, Brigadier-General of the T'ai-ning Military Division, reports his arrival at the capital and humbly asks after the Imperial health.

No other news of interest.

5th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Jui Ying is allowed to continue another year as Imperial Commissioner of the Government Silk Looms at Hangchow, Chékiang.

(2) Wên Hsü is allowed to continue another year as Imperial Commissioner of the Kiangnan Silk Looms at Nanking, Kiangsu.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the

Assistant Grand Secretary Lin Shu and to Hsü Yung-yi.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

With respect to the memorial of the headquarters of the Imperial Guards, His Majesty has appointed Tsai Lien, Prince of the 3rd Order, and seven others to inspect the artillery practice of the brigades of the Imperial Guards. In answer to the memorial of the Board of Civil Appointments, His Majesty has appointed the Assistant Grand Secretary Lin Shu, the President of the Board of Revenue Hsi Ching and fifteen other Presidents and Vice-presidents of Boards to examine the monthly list of candidates for official appointments in the metropolitan and provincial administrations. The Earl of Hsing having been ordered to sacrifice in His Majesty's stead at the tombs of the Ming dynasty Emperors, asks for the Imperial instructions before proceeding on his journey. An Hsing-a, the husband of the eldest Imperial Princess, having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties.

ESCAPE OF A CONVICT.

Tè Ming and Chih Shêng-a, Resident and Assistant-Resident of the Khalka Mongols report the escape of one Wên Tu who has been denounced by Kuang Yü and others for making counterfeit silver ingots and cashiered of his rank of capt-in in the Banner forces; the said Wên Tu having been turned over to the memorialists and sent to work on the 5th section of the military post-roads. Memorialists state that the convict Wên Tu was sent by them as above stated to the military postroads, but he never reported at that section, hence they have inferred that he has escaped to some place. They therefore request an Edict to be issued commanding the Brigadier-general of Malanchên, and the local authorities round about, within and without the Great Wall, to assist in effecting the recapture of the escaped convict. —*Rescript: Decree already published, and memorial by Kuang Yü which effected the capture of the convict, who has since been turned over to the Board of Punishments.*

6th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We hear with great regret of the death of Yi Ying, Prince of the 3rd Order, bearing the brevet degree of a Prince of the 2nd Order. Having been occupied for many years as a high Minister of the household, he was at the time of his death

Captain-General of the Mongolian Plain Yellow Banner troops and Senior President of the Imperial Clan Court. He was a *faithful servant and we command that* Tls. 500 shall be expended from the Privy Purse on sacrificial libations, etc., in addition to the regular grant allowed to Princes of his rank and order. A funeral pall with Buddhist inscriptions is granted also to the deceased Prince and let all faults of his be erased from the records, and let the proper *yamen* take note.

(2) As the post of prefect of Lanchowfu, in Kansu, is one of great importance, let the Governor-General of the Shên-Kan provinces delegate some prefect from among the whole number under him, and let the post vacated by the prefect of his choice be given to P'ang Sih.

(3) Let En Yu be appointed Chief Officer of the three Pao-i (hereditary slaves) Banners garrisoning the Palace and grounds of Yuenmingyuen, and let him also take charge of all affairs relating to the jingal regiments.

(4) Let Tsai Ying, Prince of the 3rd Order, act as Chief Inspector of the review of the Peking Field Force.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Yung Kuei, member of the Grand Council, Sün Chieh, Governor of Shuntienfu, and to Chang Ying-huan. His Majesty intends to proceed to-morrow morning after transacting State matters, to Eho Park to pay his usual obeisance to the Empress-Dowager, after which His Majesty will return to the Lakes.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The last memorial of the late Prince Yi Ying, of the 3rd Order, was presented to His Majesty this morning. Fu Shing, just appointed to be colonel of the Manchu battalion in Kirin, and Peh Liang, colonel of the Manchu battalion of Hangchow, gave thanks for their appointments. The Duke of A and Yung Kuei, members of the Grand Council, having both completed their leave of absence report their return to Court duties.

SZECHUAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE KANSU MILITARY CHEST.

Liu Ping-chang, Governor-General of Szechuan, reports that in accordance with the Throne's decree communicated to the memorialist through the Board of Revenue last year (1892) requiring the province of Szechuan to contribute the sum of Tls. 980,000 during the years

1892 and 1893 in aid of the Kansu military chest; Tls. 300,000 to be contributed during 1892 and the remainder by the end of the month of October 1893; he, the memorialist, now desires to state that so far, not including the sum sent last year, the first and second instalments already sent this year have amounted to Tls. 520,000. In view of the urgent need of funds for military preparations in the province of Kansu (which includes Chinese Tu-kestan) memorialist in consultation with the Provincial Treasurer signified to him the importance of sending money of this sort promptly, or even if possible before the date notified by the Board of Revenue, hence the Acting Provincial Treasurer, Wên Kuang, has been exceedingly diligent in collecting the last instalment of Tls. 160,000 which he has now notified memorialist that he has turned over to the care of the Wei Fêng-hou Bank and has also impressed upon the said Bank the necessity for sending the draft in order to get to Kansu by the end of October. Memorialist now begs to report to the Throne the completion of his province's contribution of Tls. 980,000, and requests that the proper Board be ordered to take notice of the fact.—*Receipt: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

7th October.

THE COURT.

Li Tuan-fên having completed his inspection of the works at the Western Imperial mausolea reported personally the results to His Majesty this morning. The Marquis of Kê also had an audience of His Majesty, and reported the result of his inspection of the repairs made at the Left Middle Gate of the Palace.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Tsai Ying, Prince of the 3rd Order, and his colleagues gave thanks for their recent appointments. Chih Hêng having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties. Ch'ien Kuang has asked for five days' extra leave of absence.

THE CHEFOO STEAMER "KWANGCHI."

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, in a postscript memorial reports the amount of Customs receipts collected from the cargo of the "People's Transportation Company's" steamer called the *Kwangchi*, which has been running between Chefoo and ports belonging to the prefecture of Lai-chowfu, Sha-tung, at the mouth of the Yellow River and the coast. According to the report of the acting Taotai at Chefoo, Li Chên-yung, commencing from the 1st day of the 7th moon, last year, to the end

of the year (22nd August, 1892, to 16th February, 1893,) a period of six lunar months, the duty on cargo carried by the said steamer *Kwangchi*, collected at Chefoo, the seaport of Fushanhsien, at Lung-k'ou, seaport of Huanghsien, and at T'ai-p'ingwank'ou, seaport of Yehsien, amounted to a total sum of Tls. 4,170, odd. This sum has, according to orders received from the Tsungli Yamen at the time sanction was given to the China Merchants' S.N. Co., four years ago to trade in non-treaty ports, been placed to the account of the deficit fund, which had been allowed to run on, in connection with the expenses of the Chefoo gunboat *T'ai-an*, which, owing to the inability of the Chefoo Taotai to pay the wages of the captain and crew of the said gunboat and its great age, has been dismantled and given to the China Merchants' S. N. Co., to become their cargo hulk.—*Receipt*: Let the proper yamen take note.

8th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Way Wên-ching is appointed Senior Vice-President (Chinese) of the Board of War *vice* the late Hung Chün.

(2) Li P'ei-yuan is promoted to be Reader and Wang Sih-fan Expositor of the Imperial Academy of Learning (Hau-lin Yuan).

(3) K'uei Pin is appointed Captain-general of the Mongolian Plain Yellow Banner troops *vice* the late Prince Yi Ying of the 3rd Order.

(4) The Prince of Kêch'ing, Chin Ch'i, is appointed Senior President of the Imperial Clan Court and Tsai Ch'i, Prince of the 3rd Order, is appointed Junior President of the same.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Chang Ch'i-kuang, Brigadier-General of the Pescadore Islands, P'ang Sih, prospective Prefect of Lanchowfu, Kansu, and K'un Kang, President of the Board of Rites. His Majesty also personally appointed the Grand Secretary Hsü T'ung and Board Vice-President Hsü Shu-ming to be the Chief Examiners of the theses of the new *chü-jên* at the Palace examinations.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENT.

The husband of the Eighth Imperial Princess reported the results of his inspection of the target practice of the naval force at Lake K'unming. The Marquis of Ying and Wu-la-hsi-chung-a, President of the Board of War, have asked for twenty

days' extra leave of absence from Court duties owing to prolonged illness. The Brigadier-General of the Pescadores, Chang Ch'i-kuang, being about to start for his post, asked for the Imperial instructions. P'ang Sih, prospective prefect of Lanchowfu, Kansu, gave thanks for his appointment. Shou Ch'ang, having completed his leave of absence, reported his return to Court duties.

DENONCING A DISTRICT MAGISTRATE.

T'an Chün-p'ei, Governor of Yunnan, states that he has always been careful in watching the conduct of his subordinates, especially the district magistrates, who are in such close contact with the masses of the people that it is of the utmost importance for their welfare and for good order that these officials or, "parents of the people," should bear a blameless reputation and be men who have the interests of their people at heart. Hence whenever a case is brought to his (memorialist's) notice of the slightest misconduct amongst the district and departmental magistrates, memorialist never fails to investigate the matter at once, and, if necessary, denounce or cashier the delinquents. It has now been reported to him that Ma K'un, acting department magistrate of Hsüanweichou, Yunnan, has been making himself exceedingly obnoxious to the people of that department; being also very unreasonable in his conduct. It is important that the said acting departmental magistrate be not allowed to go scot-free, owing to his unsavoury reputation, and memorialist, therefore, at the recommendation of the Taotai commanding that department, and the Provincial Treasurer and Judge, requests that the Throne may allow him to cashier the said Ma K'un, for his delinquencies. In addition to this, some of the gentry and people of Hsüanweichou have presented a memorial to the memorialist in which the said departmental magistrate Ma K'un has been accused of many delinquencies, in view of which all the persons connected with the case and the departmental magistrate himself have been assembled at the capital of the province, Yunnanfu, in order that an investigation may be made of the charges under the eye of the memorialist himself.—*Receipt*: Let it be as requested, and let the Board of Civil Appointments make a note of the matter.

THE COAST DEFENCE FUND.

Wang Wên-shao, Governor-General of the Yunkuei provinces, and T'an Chün-p'ei, Governor of Yunnan, make a joint report regarding the subscriptions that have been

paid into the Treasury of the province on behalf of the new subscription list opened on account of the Coast Defence Fund. For the six lunar months just ended, Tls. 3,398 have been collected, and it is requisite, in accordance with the instructions received, to grant various official buttons and ranks in proportion to the sums subscribed by the donors. Certain names are now presented to the Throne for such honours.—*Receipt: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

9th October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hui T'a-pu, President of the Board of Works, and to Ah K'ê-tan and Li Shan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Wang Ming-luan, being about to start on his mission of inspection of the repairs made to the Western Imperial mausolea asks for Imperial instructions. Liang Pih had an audience of His Majesty and personally presented his memorial against the scandalous fraud exercised at the recent *chujên* examinations in the metropolis. The Prince of Jui and his colleagues gave thanks for their recent appointment. The Duke of Ch'êng having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties. The consort of the Eighth Imperial Princess has asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

MURDER ARISING FROM GAMBLING.

T'ao Mu, Governor of Chinese Turkestan, reports a case in which a Turki subject of the empire murdered another of the same lineage through a gambling fray, and the sentence he decreed on the murderer and the other gamblers. The murderer whose name is Tokhta Akhoun ("Akhoun" being a title for a dignitary of the Moslem creed) is a native of Holan and is a husbandman by profession, and previous to the murder of the victim Rahoolat, seemed to be on friendly terms with the latter. However, on the 27th of February, 1892, (Chinese New Year holidays) as Rahoolat and three others, Baihoola, Osman, and Shatola were gambling in the house of a man named Shaitan. Tokhta Akhoun suddenly appeared on the scene, but having no money on his person, borrowed a jacket from Hassa Han ("Han" being the designation of a Turki woman) the wife of Shaitan, which he pawned with the then banker, Baihoola, for eight hundred Turki cash (equal to one tael sixty-five cents) and joined the game then going

on. The game continued until 11 o'clock that night, when the party ceased playing, and Osman and Shatola were the first to leave. At this moment Hassa Han began to ask Tokhta Akhoun for the jacket he had borrowed of her, but the latter having lost everything had no money to redeem the article and so was forced to ask Baihoola to allow him to take back the jacket, promising to pay him back the money the next day. This, however, Baihoola refused to do; so Tokhta Akhoun commenced to upbraid the former for his lack of friendship, winding up with swearing at him. Baihoola then retorted by attempting to knock Tokhta Akhoun down with his fist, but the latter parried the blow and drawing his knife stabbed Baihoola in the right side. At this Baihoola commenced to call out for help, when Rahoolat came up and rebuked Tokhta Akhoun for using a knife. The latter accused Rahoolat of treachery, whereupon Rahoolat caught hold of Tokhta Akhoun by the chest and said he would go with him to the Aksakal ("Graybeard" or village headman) who should judge between them. Tokhta Akhoun then tried to get away, but finding he could not, again used his knife, striking Rahoolat in the right hip. Still Rahoolat would not let go, and Tokhta Akhoun fearing that Rahoolat was trying to get hold of a club near by to strike him, he gave another stab, this time in the back in the region of the heart, whereupon Rahoolat fell down fatally hurt. Shaitan, in whose house the gambling and subsequent fight had taken place, then came up, but Tokhta Akhoun made his escape. Shaitan then went to inform Rahoolat's wife, Sharon, of the catastrophe, and she bore her husband home, a doctor being called in in the meanwhile. However, all endeavours were in vain, and Rahoolat died the next day. The Aksakal was then informed, and the murderer and the other gamblers were eventually arrested and tried by the acting sub-prefect of Holan, who also reported the matter to the Kashgar Tao tai, who in turn sent the whole party to Tihua-fu (Urumtsi), memorialist's capital city, to be tried by the *ex officio* Provincial Judge, Huang Kuang-ta, the Tao tai of the Chên Ti circuit who has recommended the case for sentence. As Tokhta Akhoun killed his victim Rahoolat with a metal weapon, the usual sentence should be that he should suffer death by decapitation at the autumnal assizes. The law against gambling should be two months' *confinement* and a hundred blows for the delinquents be they common people or soldiers, while three months'

congus and a hundred blows should be dealt out to the man in whose house the gambling took place. All these sentences as named above have accordingly been given to the persons concerned in the murder and gambling, to which memorialist asks the Imperial approval.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments report thereon.*

10th October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to K'ò Mèn-t'ai and Chih Yen.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Tsai Ying, of the 3rd Order, asks for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Pa-k'ò-tan-pu having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties and humbly asks after the Imperial health.

No news of interest.

11th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of Kuei Hêng, President of the Board of Punishments, stating that his sickness has not been alleviated, although his leave of absence has expired and praying that he be allowed to resign from his post: Let it be as requested and let a new President be appointed to take Kuei Hêng's place.

(2) Chang Hsü has denounced to us the conduct of the gaolwarden of T'ai-p'ing-hsien, Shensi, who through lack of watchfulness allowed an important criminal to escape from prison: Let the gaolwarden of T'ai-p'inghsien, Pêng Hsi-tsu, be forthwith cashiered and stripped of his rank and let the Governor Chang Hsü try his case, as well as his assistants, to see whether there has been any bribery received by these men. Furthermore, the *ch'ehsien* of T'ai-p'inghsien, Yü Hêng, is also stripped of his rank but allowed to retain his post, pending the recapture of the escaped criminal, Yen Ming-shan, who should be punished to the full extent of the law. As for the rest of the memorial, let the proper Board take note thereon.

(3) Ch'êng Chih-wei is appointed Brigadier-General of the Tat'ung Military Division of Shansi.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Fu T'ing-ch'ên and Hsing Ch'ün.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Duke of Yung reports his return from inspecting the repairs at the Eastern

Imperial mausolea. The Prince of Shuh, 1st Order, asks for fifteen days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. The Duke of Chung having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties. The Marquis of Yingsing, asks for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Fu T'ing-ch'ên, newly-appointed Brigadier-General of the Ichang Military Division of Hupeh, asks for one month's leave of absence to visit and repair his ancestral tombs before proceeding to his post. Hsing Ch'ün, Manchu Deputy Brigade-General of the Canton Banner troops, reports his arrival at the capital and humbly asks after the Imperial health.

12th October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ing Fu.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Ch'ang Ling gives thanks for his appointment as Superintendent of the Primary Schools of the Imperial Clan and various Banners. Kuei Hêng, President of the Board of Punishments, gives thanks for being allowed to resign his post owing to prolonged illness. Ch'ien Kuang asks for five days' and En P'u for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

THE ORDINARY LIKIN REVENUE OF KANSU.

Yang Ch'ang-chün, Junior Guardian of the Heir-Apparent and Governor-General of the Shên-Kau provinces, reports the amount of likin revenue for ordinary goods collected by the province of Kansu for the 18th year of the reign of Kuang-Hsü (1892-3). The total amount thus collected was Tls. 252,149 odd. Of this sum Tls. 252,104 odd, have been disbursed by the provincial exchequer mainly on behalf of the famine-stricken districts of the province last year, the other amounts contained in the sum total being for salaries of likin officials and staffs, transport of money, etc. The likin on salt and opium, of course, is not entered in this memorial, this being made the subject of another memorial.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

THE POYANG LAKE FORTS.

Fang Ju-yi, acting Governor of Kiangsi, reports the necessity of speedily repairing the forts at Huk'ou, entrance to the Poyang Lake, one of which was destroyed by lightning and consequent explosion of the gunpowder magazine, while the other was found to be so undermined by white ants

as to be untenable for the soldiers garrisoning it. In addition to these, memorialist, at the instance of the investigating officer sent by him to report on the works required, is inclined to think that these two forts are insufficient for the defence of the entrance to this important body of water, which is also a main outlet from the inland route to Fukien and the southern provinces, all the more owing to the great improvements in firearms and Western inventions for warfare. He prays the sanction of the Throne not only to allow the repairs to be made at the Huk'ou forts but also that there may be further additional defences made to this lake. Memorialist intends in a subsequent memorial, after he has made a personal inspection, to make the necessary suggestions for the end in view.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.*

13th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Censor, Ch'ü Ch'eng-po, memorialised us yesterday to the following effect:—"As the Chief Literary Chancellor of Ch'ekiang, Ying Ju-chang, was passing recently the city of Soochow, en route to Hangchow for the purpose of holding the Grace Examinations for the *chujên* degree there, a man suddenly boarded that official's boat in order to deliver a letter addressed to him, in which it was stated that five students of Ch'ekiang asked the said Chancellor Ying Ju-chang for special indulgence in the approaching Hangchow Examinations, and that in anticipation of being passed, a cheque for Tls. 10,000 was within enclosed, as a slight token of gratitude for the indulgence asked for, etc. Ying Ju-chang, however, upon receiving the letter and cheque, had the bearer arrested and turned over to the prefect of Soochow for examination, with a request that the man should be sent on to Ch'ekiang for punishment." On receipt of this memorial we immediately ordered Sung Chün, Governor of Ch'ekiang, to make a searching enquiry into the case. To-day we have received a reply from the said Governor who says that upon enquiry, the Provincial Judge Tsao Shu-ch'iao has reported that he has received a despatch from the Provincial Judge of Soochow stating that according to the confession of the bearer of the said letter, T'ao Ah-shun, (who was sent under arrest with the above despatch to Hangchow) he was only requested by the writer of the letter, a man named Chow Fu-ts'ing, to deliver it to the Chief Literary Chancellor of Ch'ekiang in person as he was passing Soochow, but

that he did not know the contents of the said letter. An investigation as to who this Chow Fu-ts'ing is, has revealed the fact that he is a Secretary of the Grand Secretariat now on mourning leave of absence. The said Governor now requests us to order that the said Chow Fu-ts'ing be stripped of his rank, in order that he may be examined as a common person, and that the investigating officials may have a free hand. As this case affects the purity, liberty, and independence of the literary examinations, there is every necessity that a most searching enquiry should be held into the matter in order that everything regarding the affair should be brought to light. We therefore command that the said Chow Fu-ts'ing be forthwith stripped of his official status and reduced to the common ranks, and it is our desire that he be immediately arrested and brought to trial, and if he should in truth be guilty of what he has been accused of, namely, of trying to tamper with the integrity of the Examiners and the purity and independence of the literary examinations, let the said Chow Fu-ts'ing be punished to the fullest extent of the law provided for such cases, and let the Board of Civil Appointments take note of the same.

(2) Although, owing to the repeated inundations of the Shantung portion of the Yellow River, measures have been taken by the high provincial authorities to remove the poor inhabitants living in the vicinity of the river, still the land cultivated by them there must be considered to be the source of their livelihood. Again comes the news that during the past autumn the waters of the Yellow River have once more overflowed their banks, thereby submerging the cultivated fields of the inhabitants of portions of Changch'ühsien, and have also destroyed the dwellings of these people. The southern banks of the upper source of the Yellow River and the northern banks of the Siao Ts'ingho are also in the same plight, inasmuch that the people of these various places are in a pitiable condition. We are glad to learn that Fu Yün and his colleagues have done something for the immediate relief of the afflicted districts; but with the rapid approach of winter and its sure accompaniment of universal distress, we fear that the means in the hands of these high officials of Shantung are inadequate for the purposes in view. It is our desire therefore, that 60,000 piculs of the Canal tribute rice sent northwards be retained by the Governor Fu Yün, and distributed by him in proportion to the several wants of the people

requiring aid. Special care should be exercised in this distribution and we command the high officials concerned to pay personal inspection in order to prevent dishonest officials and their underlings from exercising their tricks, and let the proper Board also take note of this matter.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Board President K'un Kang and to Hsü Yung-yi. After breakfast and transaction of State affairs to-morrow morning, His Majesty intends to proceed to Eho Park for the purpose of paying His Majesty's periodical visit of enquiry after the health of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Mongol Prince Wên of the 3rd Order has asked for leave of absence in order to return to his own dominions. The Earl of Chao asks for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

A PRAYER TO BE ALLOWED TO RESIGN.

Kuei Hêng, Senior Manchu President of the Board of Punishments and Captain-General of the Mongolian Bordered White Banner, humbly reports that the condition of his health is such that despite the utmost efforts of the Imperial Physicians graciously sent by the Throne to attend upon him, and in spite of the month's extra leave of absence accorded him for the purpose of procuring a respite from his duties, he is unable to return to his posts which the gracious confidence of His Majesty has placed him in. The memorialist recognises the fact that now, in the prime of his life, is the proper time to devote his talents and energies on behalf of his Imperial Master as a slight token of grateful appreciation of the bounty of the Throne; but he weepingly regrets that such is his bodily health that his physicians dare not allow him to return to Court in his present state. But prolonged absences from his post would be detrimental to the proper work of his department, hence memorialist prays that His Majesty would extend the Imperial grace further by allowing him to resign his Presidency of the Board of Punishments and the Captain-Generalship of the Mongolian Bordered White Banner in favour of stronger and abler men, for he dare not assume the responsibility of being continuously absent from his posts any longer. But he promises that if, by the favour of heaven and the Imperial grace, he ever should get well and strong enough to resume work, he

will lay his head in the dust of the earth in front of the Palace gates, and pray to be taken back in order to prove his loyalty to the dynasty to the last moment of his life.—*Decree already published in a previous issue.*

DENOUNCING A GAOL-WARDEN.

Chang Hsü, an officer of the premier button and Governor of Shansi, asks for the Imperial consent to cashier a gaol-warden for lack of vigilance in allowing important criminals under sentence of death to escape from prison, and also to degrade the gaol-warden's superior officer, the district magistrate of T'ai-p'ing-hsien temporarily of his rank for not exercising a better care over his subordinates. According to the petition of Yü Hêng, the above-named district magistrate, on the 9th of September last the said official was notified by his subordinate P'êng Hsi-tsu the gaol-warden of his prison that about four o'clock that same morning three prisoners, viz: Sung Erh-wa sentenced to be decapitated during the autumnal assizes of next year, Yen Ming-shan sentenced to be strangled this year, and Chên Ho-shang sentenced to be exiled, had managed somehow to break their chains and handcuffs and escape from prison. The petitioning magistrate immediately notified the military officials of the city to assist in recapturing the criminals, and by extraordinary diligence succeeded in retaking the man sentenced to be beheaded and the one sentenced to be banished; but notwithstanding their utmost efforts, Yen Ming-shan, the criminal sentenced to be strangled, has so far managed to escape recapture. With reference to Sung Erh-wa, memorialist finds that he is a nature of Shantung and was sentenced to be decapitated according to law for assisting to murder the husband of his paramour although the said husband was cognisant all along of the fact that his murderer was his wife's paramour. Chên Ho-shang is also a native of Shantung, and was sentenced to banishment for three years and beaten 100 blows of the bamboo, for the crime of joining a band of robbers, under ten men, who robbed with violence a passing trader of a quantity of opium and personal effects. The man Yen Ming-shan, who has so far escaped recapture, was sentenced to be strangled for accidentally kicking to death a man during a fight, according to the law that persons convicted of having given a fatal blow during a fight irrespective of dealing the said blow with fist, foot, or weapon should be strangled. He also is a native of Shantung, and the

crimes mentioned above were all committed in the above-named district of T'ai-p'ing-hsien. In view of the importance of these criminals and their escape from bonds, memorialist cannot forbear from being suspicious that possibly bribes have been given to the gaolers in charge whose greed for gain might have led them to be intentionally negligent in locking up their charges for the night. Hence he requests permission to cashier the gaol-warden P'êng Hsi-teu in order that he and his assistants may be tried and confronted with the recaptured criminals for the purpose of finding out whether or not bribes have been used in the matter. Memorialist therefore also requests that the district magistrate of T'ai-p'ing-hsien, from whose prison the criminals escaped, should be degraded from his rank but retained in office in order that he may be given a certain limit of time to effect the recapture of the criminal still at large; failing which, memorialist purposes to deal with his case according to law.—Decree already published in a previous issue.

14th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) An edict appointing a number of officials to the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

(2) An approval of the memorial of Chang Lien-kuei, Governor of Kuangsi, in which that official recommends in adulatory terms certain Taotais, prefects and magistrates under him, with the advice that these officials should continue to deserve the praise of their superiors, and that the Throne will keep them in mind.

THE COURT.

His Majesty held no audience in the Grand Council Chamber this morning, having proceeded to Eho Park to pay the usual periodical visit of enquiry after the health of H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENT.

Liang Pei has asked for twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court duties owing to indisposition.

No other news of interest.

15th October.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

(1) A decree appointing a number of officials to the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

(2) With reference to the memorial of the Board of Rites approving of the suggestion of the Governor of Chêkiang, Sung Chün, that the Chêkiang octo-

genarian, Sün Tsiang-ming of Wênchow, ex-Chancellor of the Imperial Academy of Learning (Hanlin Yuan), should be allowed to proceed a second time to the *Luh Ming* Banquet, given at the provincial capital of Hangchow to the newly-graduated *Chujên* of Chêkiang, we further command that in addition to this privilege the said Sün Tsiang-ming be given the distinction of the honorary rank of the third grade as a special Act of Grace from us in recognition of the great age he has arrived at.

(3) Na Yen-t'u, Prince of the Khalka Mongols (1st Order), and Tsai Ch'i, Prince of the 3rd Order are hereby appointed Grand Chamberlains or Ministers of the Presence.

(4) Shou Ying is appointed Senior Vice-President and K'ê Mên-t'ai Junior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, and of War, respectively. Fêng Ming and Chih Yen are appointed Senior Vice-Presidents of the Board of Works and the Mongolian Superintendency, respectively. Ying Nien is appointed acting Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works and Commissioner of the Coinage Department.

(5) Na Yen-t'u, Prince of the Khalka Mongols, is also appointed Captain-General of the Mongolian Bordered White Banner.

(6) Sung Kuei is transferred to the Presidency of the Board of Punishments vice Kuei Hêng, deceased, and Huai T'a-pu is appointed President of the Board of Works. Hsi Ching is appointed Senior President of the Court of Censors.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Grand Secretary Fu K'un, to Ho Chao-shan and Lin Shao-nien. Prince Tsai Lien (3rd Order) also had a personal audience of His Majesty and reported on the result of his inspection of the artillery practice at Lukou Bridge. The Prince of Li (1st Order) also reported personally to His Majesty the result of the recent autumn review of the Peking Field Force.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty has appointed Kêng Ying-pu to report on the repairs made to the Left Middle gates of the Palace. Wêng T'ung-ho, President of the Board of Revenue, and his colleagues reported in a memorial the result of the recent *chujên* examinations. Ho Chao-shan, prefect of Kuangsi, gave thanks for his recent appointment. The Dukes of Pêh and Chi having completed their leave of absence, reported their return to Court duties.

No other news of interest.

16th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ung Li is appointed Senior and Ch'ang Lin Junior Lieutenant-Generals of the Peking Gendarmerie.

(2) Ch'ung Li is also appointed Acting Deputy Captain-General of the Mongolian Yellow Banner.

(3) Yü T'è is transferred to the Deputy Captain-Generalship of the Manchu Bordered Yellow Banner, and Hsi Shu is appointed Deputy Captain-General of the Manchu Bordered Blue Banner. Tsi Lan, Imperial Duke of the Third Degree, is appointed Deputy Captain-General of the Mongolian Red Banner.

(4) A decree appropriating a quantity of rice and grain to the winter refuges established by the various Peking charitable institutions for the use of the famine refugees from the recent floods.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ung Li, Ah K'è-tan, and Chang Ying-huan. Na Yen-t'u, Prince of the Khalka Mongols gave thanks personally to His Majesty for his recent appointments. The Earl of Hsing reported in person to His Majesty the result of his mission to sacrifice on the Emperor's behalf at the Imperial Tombs of the late Ming dynasty.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the Board of War, His Majesty has appointed the Deputy Captain-Generals, Ch'ing Fu and P'eng Shou, to preserve order at the forthcoming military examinations for the *chujên* degree. Wang Luan-ming reports in a memorial the result of his mission to examine the works at the Western Imperial mausolea. Sun Yü-wên, Governor of Shuntienfu, and his fellow-provincials gave thanks in a memorial for His Majesty's gracious gifts to their provincial guild in the capital. Ying Sing and Ch'ün Shou reported their return to Court duties this day.

ASKING FOR REMISSION OF TAXES.

T'an Chün-pei, an officer of the premier button and Governor of Yuunan, with the concurrence of Wang Wên-shao, Governor-General of the Yun-Kwei provinces, humbly begs for the Throne's bounty and prays that permission may be granted for the remission of the land taxes this year in certain portions of the province of Yuunan, devastated by floods and hailstorm during the summer of 1892. According to the joint report of Shih Nien-tsu, Provincial Treasurer, and the Grain Commissioner

Ying Kwei, it seems that from the petition of the acting prefect of Tungch'uanfu, the acting sub-prefect of Kuangsichou, the acting district magistrate of Hueitsêhsien, the district magistrate of Lichianghsien, and the four deputies sent to examine the places above-named suffering from flood and hail, a large tract of country has been devastated. Thus the prefecture of Tungch'uanfu has a district covering 763 *mow*, 3 *fun*, and 1 *hao* of government land submerged, which should produce a yearly land tax in kind of 131 *piculs*, 8 *ton*, 2 *shên* odd of rice; in the sub-prefecture of Kuangsichou there are 657 *mow* and 7 *fun* submerged yielding a land tax during this autumn in kind of 9 *piculs*, 6 *ton*, 7 *shên* odd of rice; in the district magistracy of Hueitsêhsien, 413 *mow*, 6 *fun* odd of land is flooded, which should give for the autumn taxes in kind 8 *piculs*, 6 *ton*, and 8 *shên* of rice; and lately in the district magistracy of Lichianghsien there are inundated an area of 1,400 *mow*, 9 *fun* of arable ground which should yield for the autumn taxes 22 *piculs*, 7 *ton*, and 8 *shên* odd of rice. As the people inhabiting the submerged district are an especially indigent and laborious lot, memorialist thinks that they deserve some sort of sympathy from government, over and above the relief already given them, a report of which was submitted to the Throne at the time, and hence prays the Throne to allow these sufferers exemption from taxes during 1892 and 1893.—*Rescript*: Let it be as requested and let the Board of Revenue take note thereon.

No other news of interest.

17th October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Junior Lieutenant-General of the Peking Gendarmerie, or Police Provost Marshal, Ch'ang Ling and to the Vice-Presidents Li Tuan-fên and Fu Shêng-pu. Ch'ung Li and colleagues gave thanks in person to His Majesty for their recent appointments.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Consort of the Eldest Imperial Princess, Ts'ên Ts'ün-hsian, and the Duke of Ling have asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Ch'ien Kuang having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties.

A CASE OF ATTEMPTED BRIBERY.

Ch'u Chên-po, Censor of the Kiangsi Circuit, states that he has heard it reported that the Chief Imperial Examiner or

Literary Chancellor of Chêkiang, while passing Soochow *en route* for Hangchow, arrested a man who had brought a letter containing a cheque as a bribe and that the delinquent had been handed over to the prefect of Soochow to be sent on under arrest to the capital of Chêkiang. If this be so, memorialist requests that a decree be promulgated for a searching enquiry to be made into the case by the high authorities of Chêkiang, and full punishment be meted out to the offenders. According to a report of the affair as told to the memorialist, it seems that as the Literary Chancellor *in question*, Ying Ju-chang, was passing Soochow *en route* for Hangchow, a man suddenly presented himself on board Ying Ju-chang's boat and handed him a letter containing a cheque or bank order for \$10,000, asking that the said Literary Chancellor should bear in mind the surnames and names of six of the candidates for the *Chueh* degree who expected to compete at the coming examinations at Hangchow. As soon as Ying Ju-chang had possessed himself of the contents of the letter, he at once ordered the detention of the bearer and handed him, the letter, and cheque to the care of the prefect of Soochow, formerly prefect of Chinkiang, named Wang Jên-k'an, with a request that he should examine the man and send the evidence and prisoner on to the Governor of Chêkiang, Sung Chün, at Hangchow. This affair has excited considerable comment in both the provinces of Kiangsu and Chêkiang, and great indignation is felt amongst the *literati* of integrity and honesty of the above-named places. Even in Peking rumours are rife of the affair, and it is bandied about as one of extreme rarity and audaciousness. The memorialist feels, moreover, that this is a case of the gravest importance affecting the strict integrity and secrecy of the examination hall, and for the audacity and defiance of law and custom of these persons to attempt bribery in this case he thinks that the strictest enquiry and full measurement of the law should be directed upon the criminal delinquents. If no notice be taken of it, there will be great danger of circumstances of still greater audacity and daring in the future.—*Decree already published.*

FULL REPORT OF THE CASE OF ATTEMPTED
BRIBERY.

Sung Chün, Governor of Chêkiang, begs leave to make a truthful report in a case of attempted bribery, according to His Majesty's commands. On the 15th of September last, reports Tsao Shu-ch'iao, Pro-

vincial Judge of Chêkiang, he received a despatch from the Provincial Judge of Kiangsu to the effect that on the 7th of the same month, as the Imperial literary examiners of Chêkiang were passing Soochow *en route* for Hangchow from Peking, one Chou Fu-t'ing sent a man, bearing a letter, on board the boat of Ying Ju-chang, the Chief Imperial Literary Chancellor, to whom he delivered the missive. Upon reading the contents, the Chancellor immediately ordered the arrest of the bearer of the letter, a man named T'ao Ah-shün, whom he sent to the prefect of Soochow for examination. The said letter was an attempt to bribe the said Chancellor, requesting him to pass certain candidates who were to present themselves for examination at the approaching literary examinations to be held at Hangchow by the special grace of the Throne in honour of H.L.M. the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday next year. The evidence of the said servant T'ao Ah-shün, bearer of Chou Fu-t'ing's letter, being contradictory and discursive, the prefect of Soochow immediately sent the prisoner on to Hangchow to be examined by the memorialist, who, however, happened just then to be confined by his duties at the examination halls. Upon receipt of this intelligence, memorial ordered the Provincial Judge, Tsao Shu-ch'iao, and Liu Shu-t'ang, Treasurer, to preside over the case, and they in turn ordered the prefect of Hangchow, Ch'ên Chü, to make the preliminary investigations. According to the deposition of the said T'ao Ah-shün, he stated that he is a native of Shaoshing, and a servant of one Ch'ên Shün-ch'uan belonging to the same city. In the middle of August, a friend of his master, one Chou Fu-t'ing, requested the use of the witness's services, and he eventually followed him to Soochow, which was reached on the 5th of September. On the 7th of the same month, it being reported that the boats of the Imperial Literary Chancellors had arrived at Soochow, Chou Fu-t'ing brought out a letter and his card and commanded him to take them on board the Chief Chancellor's boat. This he did, when he was suddenly arrested by the people on the boat. What the contents of the letter were, the witness reiterated that he knew nothing. The original envelope contained two sheets of paper; one was an order on a bank for \$10,000 and the other contained the surnames and ancestors' names to the second generation of six candidates namely, Ma, Ku, Ch'ên, Süu, Chang,

and Chou, the last named being the son of the writer of the letter. In addition were certain characters to be used at the heading of the theses which were to point out the personality of the five candidates who had subscribed the bribe of \$10,000. Furthermore, a card containing the words "Your Uncouth Younger Brother and Academy-mate Chou Fu-ts'ing," accompanied this letter and cheque. All these particulars were sent in to memorialist while occupied within the examination halls. After the examinations memorialist found that only the son of Chou Fu-ts'ing and the one named Ma tallied in name and ancestral pedigree on their papers with those given by the said Chou Fu-ts'ing in his letter, while as nothing could be made of the surnames of Ku, Ch'ên, Sün, and Chang, the memorialist only felt justified in cancelling the theses of the first two candidates, it being impossible to identify the persons of the last four surnames, hence nothing has been done in regard to them. As for Chou Fu-ts'ing, memorialist only knows that he is a man of high rank, while according to the papers of his son he has further learnt that the said Chou Fu-ts'ing is a native of Huichihhsien in the prefecture of Shao-shingfu. According, however, to the deposition of the said servant T'ao Ah-shün, Chou Fu-ts'ing is a *Ch'ien-shih* or Metropolitan graduate and Secretary of the Grand Secretariat at Peking now on leave of absence on account of mourning. As the letter was given in a neighbouring province it was not known whether Chou Fu-ts'ing was still in Kiangsu or whether he had returned to his home in Ch'ekiang. Instructions were therefore given to the district magistrates of Huichihhsien (Shaoshing) and Jénhohsien (Hangchow) to make secret enquiries as to the whereabouts of the culprit, but the search has been unsuccessful and Chou Fu-ts'ing is still at large. It being extremely necessary that Chou Fu-ts'ing be arrested in order to get at the bottom of the matter, and unless he be cashiered to the common rank he will still refuse to make the requisite "confession," memorialist requests that Chou Fu-ts'ing be forthwith degraded and stripped of his rank, in order that when arrested he may be tried as a common felon.—*Rescript: Decree already published.*

18th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ma T'ing-siang is appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Right battalion of the Tientsin city garrison.

(2) Tê Shêng is appointed Superintendent of Customs (Hoppo) at Canton.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Yung Kuei, Privy Councillor, and to Ying Nien, Acting Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the Board of Works His Majesty has appointed Hwai T'a-pu, Chief Commissioner of the Peking Octroi, to be also Inspecting Commissioner of the metropolitan canals, river works, etc. The Expectant Commodore Han Ts'ün-kaio and Captain Chou Fang-ming gave thanks for their new appointments.

A CASE OF DUPLICATE WIVES.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, reports the result of his investigation into a case which was taken away from his jurisdiction by the plaintiff and brought up to the Court of Censors at Peking, but again referred to memorialist by a decree of the Throne in the month of November, 1892. The case was first sent to the Provincial Judge, Sung Lin, by memorialist for trial and afterwards verified by him in person. According to the evidence adduced it appears that the appellant, a commoner by the name of Ts'ai Ta-k'uei, a native of Kiangsu, residing in Shantung, charged the respondent or defendant, T'uan Kuo-chün, a native of Honan, but now an expectant district magistrate of Shantung, of having by false pretences inveigled a maiden belonging to appellant's clan into marriage and then by ill-treatment encompassed her death, but that trusting in his, the respondent's, official status and influence, he defied the arm of Justice from taking its course. Such were the charges. But an investigation into the evidence has placed another aspect on the affair, which subsequently was acknowledged by the appellant who eventually confessed that his charges were made under the influence of excitement and suspicion, caused by over-estimating certain circumstantial evidence. The facts of the case stands therefore as follows: T'uan Kuo-chün, an expectant *ch'ehsien* of Shantung, has an only son T'uan T'ing-ch'i, at the time a salaried Licentiate of his native town of Tsiyuanhsien, Hunan: but this son, owing to there being no issue of the elder brother of the respondent T'uan Kuo-chün, was many years ago adopted by this elder brother, or own uncle of the said T'uan

T'ing-ch'i, who in Honan got a wife for his adopted son or nephew, from the K'ung clan. With this wife T'u'an T'ing-ch'i lived happily for some years but up to 1891 had no children by her. As is customary, when two brothers or relatives have only one son between them to hand down the family name and offer the ancestral sacrifices, the adopted father generally gets a wife for the child of his adoption while the parent himself also procures an extra wife for his son, in order to make sure of the chance of having a grandson, especially if the wife procured by the adopted parent prove barren. The respondent T'u'an Kuo-ch'i, finding, therefore, that K'ung Shih, the wife of his son T'u'an T'ing-ch'i procured by his uncle or adopted father had so far been without issue, accordingly set about to procure a wife for his son in Shantung, unknown to the latter. The girl chosen to be the wife of T'u'an T'ing-ch'i, was a maiden of the Ts'ai clan, of which the appellant Ts'ai Ta-k'uei is the male representative in Shantung. In November 1891, the said T'u'an T'ing-ch'i and his first wife K'ung Shih having come to Shantung from Honan, his father, the respondent ordered him to marry Ts'ai Shih, which was done as the former dared not disobey his father's commands. So far the new couple lived happily together, and the two co-wives K'ung Shih and Ts'ai Shih also lived amicably together calling each other "sisters" according to etiquette. A month after the marriage however, it seems that the new wife happened to retire first without waiting for her husband, an act which was taken umbrage at by the latter, who reprimanded Ts'ai Shih for her want of respect for her lord and husband. Ts'ai Shih who seemed to be a girl of spirit retorted, and an altercation ensued, but peace was apparently restored through the intercession of a female servant Ch'eng Wang-shih, and the husband accordingly left the room while the servant after staying with the bride a short time, also retired to rest in her own quarters. Much to the consternation of everyone Ts'ai Shih was found the next morning quite dead, suspended by the neck from one of the windows of her apartment. The news was immediately communicated to the mother of Ts'ai Shih, called Ts'ai Tu-shih, who was exceedingly grieved at her daughter's unexpected suicide, and on the other hand the father-in-law, T'u'an Kuo-ch'i, the respondent, also notified the district magistrate of the town to conduct an inquest on the body. But the mother of the dead

girl, could not bear to think of this and willingly signified her desire to the local magistrate to forego the inquest. The body of the dead woman was therefore laid in a coffin and the T'u'an family gave her the best of everything so far as funeral obsequies and Buddhist ceremonies went, the expenses on this occasion being about Tls. 500. All this time the appellant, Ts'ai Ta-K'wei, was away from Shantung and knew nothing of the affair. On his return from a trading trip, however, he was so much shocked, so he states, at the suicide of his relative, that he immediately became suspicious that she had died by foul means, and that the jealousy of K'ung Shih, the first wife, was at the bottom of the whole thing. The foregoing of the inquest was also a matter for suspicion, and the tears and lamentations of the mother of the bride so goaded him to madness that he immediately began to sue the respondent at the court of the then acting Governor of Shantung, the Provincial Treasurer, T'ang P'ing-ch'ên, stating that his relative Ts'ai Shih had died under suspicious circumstances, and that T'u'an Kuo-ch'in taking advantage of his official position prevented for obvious reasons the taking place of the inquest. This case was deputed by the acting Governor to the prefect of Tungch'angfu; but before anything had been done by this official in the matter, Ts'ai Ta-k'uei had already gone up to Peking to appeal to the Court of Censors; in which he himself acknowledges that he had added the charges above-named against the respondent, in order to strengthen his case, while on the other hand he also confessed that he had no enmity against the T'u'an family. But now having heard the evidence of all parties, he confessed that he had been too rash and precipitous in making his charges. As the law in the appellant's case provides 40 blows of the bamboo and a fine, memorialist has sentenced him to this punishment, while the respondent is also wrong for having of his own accord sought for a second wife for his son, which as an official he should have first obtained the consent of the Throne before doing. He is therefore turned over to the proper Board for the determination of a penalty. As the son was only following his father's commands in marrying Ts'ai Shih, he is held blameless as also the go-between Wang Lu-san, who acted throughout in a straightforward manner, according to the custom that obtains throughout the empire. —Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments report thereon.

19th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Regarding the request for instructions by the Grand Court of Sacrificial Worship as to the sacrifices at the ancestral temple of our house on the 8th of November, this day being the first month of the winter term, be it known that we will go in person to the said temple to pay personal sacrifice, while it is our desire that K'uei Pin proceed to the Rear Shrines, En Ch'ing to the Eastern Court and Wên Hsi to the Western Court, for the purpose of sacrificing in our stead.

(2) Lung Ching is commanded to sacrifice at the Rear Shrines of the ancestral temple of the Imperial house on the 17th of November, on the occasion of the fifty-ninth anniversary of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager's birthday.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hsi Ching, and Tê Shêng, the newly-appointed Hoppo of Canton.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Duke of Tsô has been appointed to sacrifice in His Majesty's stead at the ancestral tablets in the Palace on the 24th of October. The Duke of Na asks for five days' extra leave of absence. Prince Ch'ing and his colleagues give thanks for the Imperial gifts. The Consort of the Eighth Imperial Princess having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties. Chu Siang-hsing, newly-appointed Lieutenant-Colonel in Kansu, Su Tê-shêng, newly-appointed Colonel in the same province, and Tê Shêng, newly-appointed Hoppo of Canton, all give thanks for the Imperial bounty.

No other news of interest.

20th October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience in the Grand Council Chamber this morning to Sung Shêng and Ch'ung Kuang.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Tsai Ying, Prince of the 3rd Order, reports his return to Court duties after completing his leave of absence. Tung Kuei-yu, newly-appointed an expectant General of the 3rd Class, and Chin Yü-t'ien, newly-appointed Colonel in Kiangsu province, both gave thanks this morning for the Imperial bounty.

PROMOTION OF CHINESE CONSULS.

Ts'ui Kuo-yin, Minister to the United States, Spain and Peru, asks for the Imperial bounty in connection with rewards of promotion in rank in the case of three members of his suite, and in accordance with the rules decided upon by the Tsungli Yamen in favour of Chinese officials who have completed three full lunar years of service abroad. In the case of T'an Ch'ien-t's'u, an unattached expectant prefect, Consul-General of Cuba, memorialist asks that he shall be promoted to be an unattached expectant Taotai, with a brevet button of the second rank: Liu Chung-fan, an unattached sub-prefect of the third-class, who is an *attaché* in the New York Consulate, to be a prefect (unattached) with a brevet button of the 3rd rank; Ho Shêng-tze, an interpreter in the Legation and sub-magistrate, to be a district magistrate (unattached); and Ku Chin-huei, a government student with the brevet sixth button, now Consular agent in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, to be a sub-magistrate with a posthumous title of the 5th grade on behalf of his parents.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the proper yamen take note.*

21st October.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Ho Kuang-siu, newly-appointed Colonel, gives thanks for the Imperial bounty. The Duke of Ting asks for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

BROCADED AND EMBROIDERED SILKS FOR THE COURT.

Yüing T'ing, Imperial Commissioner of the Soochow Government Silk Looms, reports the amount used by his department for the weaving of brocaded and embroidered silks ordered by the Household Department on behalf of His Majesty's Court during the year 1890-1. In 1889 memorialist's predecessor was commanded by order of the Throne to prepare for the use of the Court and for Imperial presents 4,143 pieces of embroidered Court robes, flags (silk and satin), and brocaded silks of the heaviest kind. Owing to want of funds to defray the expenses of embroidering and weaving the required stuffs, the predecessor of memorialist obtained a respite, extending the time to supply the silk and satin goods to a period of two years. Since then memorialist has succeeded, by dint of hurrying on the contributions of the Provincial Treasury, the Shanghai Maritime Customs, and the Soochow and Shanghai Likin Bureaux, in sending up to Peking the required stuffs

by the end of 1892, using the sum of Tls. 135,633, odd, about Tls. 700 for packing and freightage, and various other sums. The entire contributions of the above-named departments of Tls. 104,031 odd, together with the money already in hand, handed down by the memorialist's predecessor, have therefore been found inadequate for the purpose in view, and memorialist now has to report a deficit of Tls. 2,302.27 which should be owing the weavers and embroiderers of his department. Memorialist, however, congratulates the Throne that owing to the instructions received from Peking, the various stuffs sent up to the Court have been of a finer and thicker quality than has usually been the case in previous years, and also the brocades and embroidery work have been done with unusual care and thoroughness, the gold brocades and embroidery being exceptionally worthy of mention. In the meanwhile the deficit of Tls. 2,302 odd has been made good by a loan contracted by memorialist which will be repaid in due time.—*Receipt: Let the proper department take note.*

22nd October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Yü Tê, the new deputy Captain-General of the Bordered Yellow Manchu Banner Corps, and to Ch'ung Li, Brigade-General of the Left Wing, i.e., Senior Lieutenant-General or Police Provost of the Peking Gendarmerie.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Wêng T'ung-ho, President of the Board of Revenue, and his colleagues report the completion of their duties as Examiners of the Peking Provincial Grace Examinations. En P'u having completed his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties. Owing to the discovery and denunciation by a Censor of certain frauds in the recent Grace Examinations for the *chü-fên* degree, His Majesty ordered that the Imperial Examiners Wêng T'ung-ho, President of the Board of Revenue and his colleagues should be penalised by black marks put against their official records as a punishment for carelessness; but by the grace of the Throne certain good records of these officials were allowed to counterbalance the above-named marks, therefore cancelling the latter from the records. Wêng T'ung-ho and his colleagues therefore gave thanks to His Majesty this morning for the Imperial

grace. Yü Tê, Deputy Captain-General of the Bordered Yellow Manchu Banner Corps, gave thanks this morning for his appointment.

LOYAL CONTRIBUTION OF SHANTUNG SALT MONOPOLISTS.

Fu Yün, an officer bearing the brevet rank of a Board President and Governor of Shantung, in a florid memorial full of adulatory sentences in praise of the longevity and rare virtues of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager, states that the salt monopolists of Shantung province, Liu Hun-hsi, Shih Yi-chü, and others, not to be behind the loyalty of their predecessors of H.I.M. the Emperor Ch'ien Lung's reign during the 18th century, who contributed two sums of Tls. 50,000 each to the Imperial Treasury in devoted recognition of the fiftieth and seventieth birthdays of H.M. the Empress Dowager of the above named Prince, have signified the intention to the memorialist to do the same thing on the sixtieth anniversary of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager, Tze Hsi's birthday next year. In accordance with which exhibition of loyalty, the said salt monopolists have already deposited the sum of Tls. 50,000 in the Salt Commissioner's treasury with the request that it be sent on to Peking and handed to the Commissioners in charge of the Birthday celebrations.—*Receipt: The said monopolists are allowed to contribute, and let the proper yamen take note.*

A CHEHSIEN DENOUNCED FOR CONCEALING THE DEATH OF A PARENT.

The same high official, sends a special memorial denouncing a district magistrate for trying to conceal the death of a parent in order to avoid the necessity of retiring into private life and mourning. [According to the etiquette of official life, any officer who receives news from his family concerning the death of a parent or parents should at once report the fact to his superiors, nor is he allowed to make any delay in doing so.] Memorialist now learns from the joint petition of Yao Hsieh-chan, Taotai of the Yen-Yi-Ta'ao-Tai Circuit, and Wang Jui-sin, prefect of Yenchowfu, that they have heard that the acting district magistrate of Ssüshuihsien, named Wang Tso-ts'ai, received some time ago a letter from his native town to the effect that his mother was no more. Instead of reporting the occurrence to his superiors, the said district magistrate delayed a long time without saying anything one way or the other, but at last sent up a petition to the above-named Taotai and prefect asking to be temporarily

relieved from office on the ground of ill-health. These officials, however, had heard certain rumours that this *chekhsien's* mother was really dead, but having no written proof of the same, they of course could do nothing, but to order his successor to make secret investigations into the subject. Eventually, however, a letter written by the magistrate to a friend was intercepted in which he tells the latter that his mother died some time ago through grief at the death of her youngest son. Having now written evidence in proof of their suspicions the petitioners at once reported this gross breach of etiquette to the Provincial Treasurer and Judge, asking these officials to recommend the punishment of the magistrate in question. As it is the law to cashier any official who has broken this rule, without mercy, and since Wang Tso-ts'ai had attempted, under a frivolous pretext, to conceal the death of his mother, forgetting filial piety and hankering after official life, which is in very truth a distinct violation of our Confucianist creed, memorialist now requests the immediate cashiering of the said Wang Tso-ts'ai, stripping him of his entire rank, and also that he be dismissed forever from the public service.—*Rescript: Granted: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

23rd October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ang Lin is appointed Chief Examiner and Yi Nien Assistant Examiner of the Manchu Translating Examinations for the *chujên* degree.

(2) Siu Lin and Chung Tê-siang are appointed Proctors of the Interior Court; Kuei Pin and Wu Shu-fên Proctors of the Inner hall; and Wên Yü, En P'u, Hu Hwei-hsing and Yang Ch'êng Surveillance Committee in the approaching *chujên* examinations.

(3) Hsi Lang-a, Senior Deputy Police Provost Marshal, and Wên Jui, Junior Deputy Police Provost Marshal, are appointed to supervise the police arrangements of the Inner Examination halls during the Examinations.

(4) Shêng-a-lu-fu, Su Li-ch'ing, Ping Chung, Hsing En and Hui Shuang-fu are appointed to receive the theses of the candidates and hand them to the Examiners.

(5) The Grain Intendancy of Soochow and Sungkiang, Kiangsu, shall be filled by Wu Cheng-lu.

(6) A decree granting a quantity of rice from the Kiangsu Tribute rice granaries in aid of the sufferers from the floods in the

capital and Shünt'ienfu, and a warning of condign punishment on such officials hard-hearted enough to speculate to the disadvantage of the refugees who have flocked to Peking or T'ungchow.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Siang Ling and Ts'ien Ying-p'u. Tsai Ch'i, Prince of the 3rd Order, has been appointed by His Majesty Superintendent of the schools established for the children of the *Giore* or collateral branch of the Imperial Clan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Chu Sing, President of the Court of Censors, has been appointed Senior Patriarch of the Bordered Yellow Manchu Banner-men. The Duke of Yung reports his return from an inspection of the repairs made to the Eastern Imperial mansolea. Hsi Ying-k'uei and Hsi Chih-ting gave thanks for the Imperial grace confirming their respective sons in their degree of *chujên* recently obtained by them at the Metropolitan examinations. Liang Ch'ung-hêng reports his return to his Court duties on expiry of leave of absence.

No other news of interest.

24th October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hwai T'a-pu, President of the Board of Works, and to Shou Ying, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Jui, 1st Order, and his colleagues, having completed their duties as Examiners of the Manchu students in the recent *chujên* competitions, reported the results to His Majesty this morning. Tsai Ch'i, Prince of the 3rd Order, gave thanks for the Imperial bounty in appointing him superintendent of the schools of the *giore* or collateral branch of the Imperial clan. The Duke of Na reports his return to Court duties, having completed his leave of absence. Yen Siu asks for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER'S BIRTHDAY EQUIPAGE.

Yung T'ing, Imperial Commissioner of the Soochow government silk looms, states that in March 1891 his predecessor Yü Siu was ordered by a decree sent through the Board of Works to prepare the silk materials to be used in connection with the equipage of H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager

on the 60th anniversary of her Majesty's birthday in 1894, and limiting forty days for the completion of the said work. Owing to the importance of this work, Yü Siu did himself credit by making all possible haste in the duties devolving upon him, and completing them within the prescribed limit. Owing to the expiry of the term just then of the memorialist's predecessor, the latter was unable to present his accounts for the above-named works, whereby the duty now devolves upon the memorialist. The following were the stuffs made which were sent up to Peking at the time:—

	Pieces.
Brocaded "cloudy" and plain silks ...	117
Silk woven from the steamed cocoons ...	74
Pongees and satinets	440
	Catties.
Silk floss and threads	74

The total amount expended on the above amounted to Tls. 12,555.67, added to which there were Tls. 114.96, for packing and freight to Peking from Soochow, or a total expenditure of Tls. 12,669.76 odd, which was provided by the Provincial Treasurer of Lower Kiangsu. These accounts having been verified by the memorialist, he now presents them in order that they may be noted by the Throne and entered into the books of the Board of Revenue for reference by the Board of Works.—*Rescript: Let the various yaméns take note.*

SHORTAGE BY A DISTRICT MAGISTRATE.

Fu Yün, an officer of the brevet rank of a Board President and Governor of Shantung, states that the former district magistratè of Ts'ingp'inghsien, named Ch'ên Hsien, while acting *pro tem.* as magistrate in charge of the district magistracy of Chiasianghsien, in the same province (Shantung), was suddenly compelled to retire from office recently owing to the death of a parent. Upon handing over the seals of his acting magistracy of Chiasianghsien to his successor, it turned out that for some reason or other Ch'ên Hsien was indebted to the Provincial Treasury in the sum of Tls. 1,424.26. Through repeated dunning of the Accountants' Department, Ch'ên Hsien has already paid into the Treasury some Tls. 700, in part payment of his debt leaving the sum of Tls. 724.26 still due by him, which he has shown much tardiness in repaying. Memorialist is therefore compelled to report this officer's delinquency to the Throne with a request that the said Ch'ên Hsien be relieved of his button and given one month's time to make up and pay the

balance still owing by him. Failing this, memorialist proposes to denounce the man in accordance with the law provided in such cases.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested, and let the Board of Civil Appointments and Revenue take note.*

POSTHUMOUS HONOURS FOR A DEVOTED OFFICER.

The same high official in a postscript memorial requests certain posthumous honours to be granted to a sub-prefect who by his devotion to his duties succumbed at last to the strain made on his health. According to the petition of the deceased's fellow-provincial, the sub-prefect of Lints'ing, T'ao Sih-ch'i, it seems that the subject of this memorial, one Han Yü-jui, an expectant sub-prefect of Shantung, went through great hardships, amidst snow and ice, while attending to his duties at the Yellow River works last winter. As to this, memorialist has already reported that officer's zeal to the Throne. But last spring, the said Han Yü-jui, having been sent by memorialist to distribute famine relief, he was unable to bear the strain made upon his bodily health in the devastated districts, so that he (Han Yü-jui) died on the 1st of August this year. Upon the death of her husband, the wife of the deceased officer committed suicide in order to wait upon her lord in the other world. An examination into the circumstances of the family of the said Han Yü-jui showed that being a man of the strictest probity and honesty, although placed in exceptionally rich posts, the deceased officer remained faithful to his charges, hence the result was that this officer's family have been placed in really distressful circumstances. Memorialist therefore endorses the petition of the said T'ao Sih-ch'i, sub-prefect of Lints'ingchou, and requests the Imperial beneficence in the shape of a memorial arch in the first place to commemorate the faithful devotion of Han Yü-jui's wife, Kêng Shih, to be placed in her native city, and in the next place memorialist sends the official antecedents of the deceased sub-prefect to be dealt with by the proper Board for the determination of extraordinary government relief and posthumous honours. Memorialist might further add that such was the pecuniary distress of the family of the deceased officer, that his fellow-provincials in Tainanfu, the capital of the province, had to subscribe money in order to pay the expenses of his funeral and transmission of the coffins back to their native town.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested, and let the proper yaméns take note.*

25th October.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Wang Hsiao is appointed prefect of Liangchoufu, Kansu province.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to A K'è-tan, Chang Ying-huan, and Liao Shou-hêng.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Ching, 2nd Order, President of the Tsungli Yamén, and Ch'ing Li, Senior Lieutenant-General of the Peking Gendarmerie, both gave thanks for His Majesty's grace in remitting the debt owed by them to government. The Prince of Chuang, 1st Order, asks for ten days' leave of absence from Court attendance. Ts'ao Hung-hsün having completed his period of mourning retirement reported his readiness to return to public life again, and, moreover humbly enquired after the Imperial health.

A PROJECTED TOUR OF INSPECTION.

Chang Chih-tung, an officer bearing the premier button and Governor-General of Hunan and Hupeh, begs to report the date of his intended tour of inspection over the troops of Hupeh province; over the coal pits and mines of the districts of Chianghsia and Tayen; the iron mines at the latter place; and the railway from thence to Wuchang; and the various other works in connection therewith. In obedience to the Imperial commands, memorialist has so far already inspected the garrisons of Wuchang and Hanyang, consisting of seven battalions, a description of which memorialist has already sent to the Throne on a previous occasion. Memorialist now intends to start from Wuchang on the 1st of October to inspect the troops belonging to the colonelcy of Huangchow, at which place he has already given orders for the three other battalions garrisoning Shanchow, Hsingkuo and T'ean to assemble for joint inspection. Memorialist also intends to take advantage of his tour to visit Horse Saddle hill (Manganshan) in the district of Chianghsia, and Wang San's rock (Wangsanshih) in the district of Tayen, for the purpose of inspecting the coal pits and mining works there. In the latter district memorialist will also visit Iron hill (T'iehshan) and the railway constructed from that place, the lime works and various wharves along the route. From thence, he will take, as he goes on, the road to T'ienchiachên, to inspect the forts built there for the protection of the

Yangtze river, in the vicinity of Wuchang. This memorial is presented in accordance with the commands of the Throne directing the high authorities of provinces to report beforehand the date of their intended departures on occasions like the present.—*Receipt: Noted.*

26th October.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

A decree appointing some ninety officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ching Sing, President of the Court of Censors, to Wang Ming-uan, Vice-President of the Board of Rites, and to Wang Hsia, newly-appointed prefect of Liangchoufu, province of Kansu.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty has appointed Ch'ung Li, Senior Lieutenant-General of the Peking Gendarmerie, and K'un Kang, President of the Board of Rites, to inspect and report on the repairs required to be made on the Mint works. The Duke of P'eh reports his return from the western mausolea. Ching Sing, President of the Court of Censors, gives thanks for his appointment as Patriarch or Senior of his special Banner. Ch'ang Lin, Junior Lieutenant-General of the Peking Gendarmerie and his colleagues report the completion of their duties as Preservers of Peace, at the recent examinations of the Manchu students for the *ch'ü* degree. The Prince of Shuh, 1st Order, asks for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Wang Hsia gives humble thanks for his appointment to the prefecture of Liangchoufu, Kansu.

THE TROOPS OF LOWER MANCHURIA.

T'ing An, President of the Board of War at Moukden, and Yü Lu, Tartar-General and Governor-General by brevet of the province of Fêngtien, respectively, state that after their autumnal grand inspection of the disciplined forces, belonging to the Shêng army corps, garrisoning Fêngtien and Moukden, they are pleased to recommend to the Imperial notice the discipline, smartness in drill, and target practice of the men. The memorialists also wish to note that the cavalry battalions belonging to this corps have all been given good remounts so that these battalions presented an exceptionally fine appearance, as did also the horse artillery

batteries. The number of bull's-eyes by the troops as well as by the field and horse artillery showed the remarkable average of over ninety per cent. The men who showed themselves particularly smart and soldierly were rewarded and the inefficient reprimanded by the memorialists who also exhorted the General-in-Chief, Fêng Shêng-a, and his colleague Kuei Siang to continue to exercise careful supervision over the drilling and discipline of their troops. Owing to the duties which require their personal presence at Moukden, memorialists have deputed the Senior Commanding Officer of the forces of the province, Su Lu-tai, to precede in their stead to Kirin and the Amur district to review the troops belonging to those places, namely, the Chih and Ts'i army corps.—*Rescript: Noted.*

No other news of interest.

27th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ts'ao Hung-hsün, Hsülin compiler of the First Class, is to do duty as usual in the Imperial Library.

(2) We are gratified at the felicitous reports of Hsü Chên-wei, Director-General of the Grand Canal, concerning the peaceful aspect of the Canal during the past season, which must be attributed to the protection of the river god. It is our desire therefore that ten sticks of Tibetan incense of the largest size be sent to the temple of the river god to be burnt before his shrine in thanksgiving for his beneficial protection, and we further desire that the Director-General Hsü Chên-wei be turned over to the proper yamén for the determination of the highest rewards appropriate to the circumstance, as well as the various high officials and Taotais of Honan province, who assisted him in his work.

(3) A similar decree with reference to Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, who also reports the pacific nature of his part of the Yellow River works, granting rewards to the Governor and his subordinates, as well as ten sticks of Tibetan incense to be offered at the shrine of the river god of Shantung.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Jui Fu, Superintendent of the Chaoling mausoleum, Ma Pei-ên, Grain Intendant of Kiangsu and Anhui, and to Pa K'ê-tan-pu.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order, has asked for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties. The consort of the eldest Imperial Princess, has asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court. His Majesty has appointed Prince Yi Kung to command the Palace guard at the Left Middle gate. The Dukes of Ling and Ting both report their return to Court duties after completion of leave of absence. The Grand Secretary Chang Chih-wan and his fellow provincials have given thanks to the Throne for the famine reliefs given to the sufferers in their native province of Chihli. Ma Pei-ên, Grain Intendant of Kiangsu and Anhui, and Jui Fu, Superintendent of the Chaoling mausoleum, gave thanks for their appointments. Ho Hui-jên, expectant Prefect of Kuangtung, and the expectant Taotai Chang Ting also gave thanks for their promotion to their present ranks.

MANCHU EXAMINATIONS IN HUPEH.

A postscript memorial by Chang Chih-tung, Governor-General of Hunan and Hupeh, report that as, in accordance with precedent, the Viceroy of the Hukuang provinces should hold an examination of the Manchu youths belonging to the various Tartar garrisons in his provinces for the degree of *chüên*, after the usual Chinese examinations for the same degree, he gave the customary notice to the Tartar General at Chingchow, and this official accordingly sent to Wuchang sixty-three Manchu youths, to be examined in translations from Manchu into Chinese and vice versa: hence these examinations are called the "Translating Examinations." The memorialist also desires to state that he took special pains to have the examination subjects sent by the Throne to him through the Board of Rites, engraved and printed in a secret closet especially reserved for the purpose. The papers were then distributed to the candidates on the day of the examinations (28th August) and were finished and collected early the next morning from the students, who were accordingly dismissed to their homes the same day. Memorialist and his coadjutors the Salt Commissioner of Wuchang, and the expectant Taotai Li Chia-lan, with the various Chinese and Manchu Proctors, were especially vigilant and careful to prevent substitutes from working out the examination papers. He now desires to state that having securely enclosed and sealed the question papers and various examination subjects, together with the work of the said sixty-three candidates,

he is now sending them under the charge of a trustworthy deputy who has been instructed to deliver them to the Board of Rites at Peking to be in turn handed over to the Grand Council for the Throne's inspection and decision as to which of the candidates shall be worthy of having the degree of *chujén* translator conferred on them.—*Rescript: Noted.*

DEARTH OF OFFICIALS HOLDING LITERARY DEGREES.

T'an Chi-hsün, Governor of Hupeh, states that one of his duties as Supervisor of the Inner Precincts of the Examination Halls, for the recent *chujén* or provincial degree at Wuchang, was to pick out from amongst the *de facto* departmental and district magistrates such as held the literary degrees of *chinshih* (metropolitan) and *chujén* (provincial) graduates to act as proctors and ward officers. A difficulty, however, appeared, in that there were not enough of the regulation number amongst such officials who could be called upon for duty for the above-named purposes. Memorialist was therefore compelled to seek amongst the expectant officials of the rank, and obtained seven of them, who, in conjunction with the five *de facto* magistrates, will be sufficient to undertake the work required of them. A list of the names of these five *de facto* and seven expectant magistrates is hereby appended.—*Rescript: Noted.*

A PROCTOR AND HIS SUBORDINATES DENOUNCED.

The same high official, in a postscript memorial, requests permission of the Throne to hand over for the determination of a penalty one of the proctors in the recent *chujén* examinations and his subordinates, the essay transcribers under him. It seemed that after the third or final theses papers had been handed over to the various proctors in charge of the several wards, for transcription by the essay transcribers, and these having done their work, the papers were then supposed to have been handed over to memorialist and his coadjutors for inspection; but it eventually turned out that two theses belonging to two licentiates of Mienyangchow and Hanyanghsien got somehow mislaid or lost during the bustle and confusion of handing the transcribed theses over. An examination into the case showed that the two theses in question had actually been transcribed, as the transcribers could prove by their tallies although the originals had been lost, and it has also been shown that

there was no intention of fraud in the matter on the part of the proctor in charge of this special ward, or his subordinates. Hence carelessness is the only fault that can be ascribed under the circumstances. The memorialist and his coadjutors were therefore compelled to go to the expense and trouble of inviting the two licentiates in question to come to a private examination, where they were asked to re-write their theses from memory in order to prove the genuineness of the transcribed theses, as well as in order to put the originals on record as usual. But the officials and clerks should not go scot-free for their carelessness, and memorialist has to report that while on the one hand he has either punished by dismissal or fine the essay transcribers guilty of the fault, on the other hand he requests the determination of a penalty with regard to the conduct of the proctor Wu Shih-huang.—*Rescript: Allowed. Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

28th October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Grand Councillor Yung Kuei and to Yü Tè, Lieutenant-General of the Manchu Bordered Yellow Banner Corps.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Ts'ao Hung-hsin gave thanks for being allowed to do duty as usual in the Imperial Library. Wu-la-hsi-ch'ung-a, President of the Board of War, asks for twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Yeh Yü-huang gave thanks for his appointment as expectant Taotai of Kuangtung.

THE HUNAN TRIBUTE RICE.

Chang Chih-tung, Governor-General of the Hukuang provinces, requests that he may be allowed to send the Hunan rice tribute in its equivalent in money instead of in kind, owing to the difficulty and delay usually experienced in such cases as the present, where memorialist has been ordered to send the Hunan Tribute rice for 1893 to relieve the Shansi famine sufferers. By sending money, quickness and despatch will be the result, which under the circumstance is very necessary, while rice may be bought with the money sent at the most convenient spot for quick transmission to Shansi.—*Rescript: Allowed. Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

No other news of interest.

29th October.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Fêng Ming, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Works, Ying Nien, Acting Junior Vice-President of the same Board, and to Li Shan, a Board Vice-President.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENT.

At the instance of the Board of Works, His Majesty has appointed the Censor Wang Wên-chin, to inspect the works at the Eastern Imperial mausolea.

RETURNING TO THE ANCESTRAL CLAN.

Shên Ping-ch'ên, Governor of Anhui, in a postscript memorial, gives the petition of Shih Chao-yuan, an expectant Brigadier-General, of that province. It seems that the petitioner is really a native of Nanchianghsien, in the province of Szechuan, and his real name is Chih-tung, of the Yang clan of the above named district, and thus should be called Yang Chih-tung. According to this officer's petition, when quite a youth, in 1856, he entered the army, as a soldier under the late Generalissimo Hsiang Yung, then fighting against the Taiping rebels, whom he followed from Szechuan to Hunan. During the advance of General Hsiang's army to relieve the province of Anhui, the petitioner lost his way and was in imminent danger of being killed or captured by the rebels: but while wandering about the prefecture of Showchow, he met a native of that place named Shih Jui-lin, who charitably received him and even made him an adopted son, thus giving the petitioner his own surname of Shih, and the name of Chao-yuan, which the petitioner has held these thirty-seven years and with which name he has been promoted from the rank of a common soldier up to his present rank of Brigadier-General. Upon the suppression of the rebellion, petitioner sent trustworthy men into Szechuan, to his native town of Nanchianghsien, to seek out traces of his old home. The messengers returned with the news that not a single scion of his family was left, and that he was the only representative of his clan of Yang. Fortunately, petitioner's adopted father had a son of his own, and learning of the sad state of the adopted son's family, he generously commanded the petitioner to resume his own name and become a Yang again, instead of his adopted surname of Shih: but petitioner did not wish to appear ungrateful to his adopted father and so did not act upon his suggestion, although the

Shih family had already a lineal male representative of the younger branch, in the person of his adopted brother, while the Yang family had no one to sacrifice to the ancestral *manes*, if he did not resume his proper surname. Again petitioner's grandfather's name bore the same sound as the one given him by his adopted father—Chao-yuan—although one character was different, which is against the Confucian precept of reverence to seniors, the juniors not being allowed to have names bearing the same characters or even sounding like those of their seniors. But now since petitioner's adopted parent is dead and he has his own son and grandchildren to sacrifice to his *manes*, the petitioner feels less compunction at resuming his own proper surname and name, since it is important for the shades of his ancestors that he should do so to perpetuate the Yang lineage. Upon receipt of this petition, memorialist ordered the Provincial Treasurer of Anhui to depute the prefect of Showchow to investigate into the truth of the petitioner's statements, and as an answer the proper guarantee-bonds of the Shih clan were sent to memorialist in proof thereof. Under the peculiar circumstances of the case, therefore, memorialist considers that the Brigadier-General Shih Chao-yuan should be allowed to resume his own proper name of Yang Chih-tung and he asks the Imperial consent to the step. All the necessary papers by which the said Brigadier-General obtained his various steps in rank are also copied, with the prayer that the Board of War should make out a new commission bearing the new name of the petitioning officer.—*Rescript: Allowed. Let the Board of War take note.*

30th October.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

We receive with deep regret the memorial of T'an Chung-lin, Governor-General of the Min-Chê provinces, reporting the death of the Provincial Commander-in-Chief of the land forces of Fukien, Sên Kai-hua, who as a military student entered the army of the late Generalissimo Pao Ch'ao, and by deeds of valour on the battlefields of Hupeh, Kiangsi, Anhui, and Honan provinces against the Taiping and Nienfei rebels, greatly distinguished himself for Imperial favours. He received many wounds while fighting the Taipings in Chiayingchow, Kuangtung, and was rapidly promoted until in 1866 he was made Brigadier-General of Changchow, Fukien, which post he held for two terms. Subsequently he

was appointed Pacificator of the Formosa savages and Assistant Imperial High Commissioner of the defences of Formosa, under Liu Ming-ch'uan. There he greatly distinguished himself and shortly afterwards was made Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Fukien, at which post he has died in harness. We greatly grieve at being deprived of our faithful servant, and command that the highest posthumous honours should be given him in accordance with his rank. His errors are also to be erased from the records and let special memorial temples be built in the various provinces in his honour, wherever he has served, and furthermore let Sün K'ai-hua's martial deeds be recorded in the dynastic histories as a reward for diligent services. Let the proper *yen-ku* also take note.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hsi Ching, President of the Board of Revenue, and to Ch'ing Li and Ch'ang Lin, Senior and Junior Lieutenant-Generals of the Peking gendarmerie.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Shub, 1st Order, and the Duke of Chung gave thanks, the first on behalf of his son, and the second on behalf of himself, for the honour of being appointed to do duty at the Ch'ients'ing gate of the Imperial Palace. Ch'ang Lin Junior Lieutenant-General of the Peking gendarmerie reported to His Majesty the completion of his duties at the recent examinations. Sèh-p'u-ch'ing-ngèh reported his return to Court duties after completion of leave of absence. Kuo Lé-min asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties, but His Majesty has appointed him in conjunction with Yü Tè, Lieutenant-General of the Manchu Bordered Yellow Banner Corps, and others to inspect the renovated temple of the Mongolian White Banner Corps.

No news of interest.

31st October.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Huang Shao-ta'in is appointed Provincial Commander-in-Chief of the land forces of Fukien, vice Sün K'ai-hua, lately deceased.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to K'un Kang, the President of the Board of Rites, to Ts'ieu En-p'u, and to Ch'ung Kuang.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the Headquarters of the Imperial Guards, His Majesty has appointed the following officers to supervise the Palace examinations of the new *ch'üên* graduates in the Pao-ho Throne-hall. Prince Tsai Shu, 3rd Order, En T'ao, Yu Shu, P'u Po, and Ch'uan Fu to supervise the first division and the Duke of Na, Chih Chuen, Ming An, Ch'eng An, and Shan Tsing to supervise the second division. Kuo Lé-min and his colleagues gave thanks for their appointment to inspect the renovated temple of the Mongolian White Banner Corps. Prince Hsi Ling-sa, of Khalpa, 3rd Order, and the Duke of Tsé ask for five days' leave of absence from Court duties.

No news of interest.

1st November.

With reference to the memorial of the Censor, Lien Chi, denouncing the system of frauds recently exercised at the late provincial examinations for the *ch'üên* degree at Peking, by which means a number of candidates succeeded in fraudulently being passed, and requesting that the students named in his memorial be punished therefor, we hereby command the Grand Secretaries Lin Shu and Hsü T'ung to convene the candidates Chou Hsio-hsi, T'ang Pao-lin, Ts'ai Hsio-yuan, Ch'ên Pu-luan, Huang Shu shêng, and Wan Hang and re-examine them, for the purpose of finding out whether their style and penmanship tally with the original theses handed over by them in the recent examinations. The Grand Secretaries herein named are furthermore commanded to make a rigid investigation and send us a faithful report of the results. In the meanwhile let the Board of Rites remove the names of these six candidates from the successful list, and memorialise us asking for a day to be appointed for the re-examination of the said candidates.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience in the Grand Council Chamber this morning to the Grand Secretary Fu K'un and to Hsüeh Yün-shêng, Vice-President of the Board of Rites. His Majesty has also signified approbation of the list of autumnal executions for the Hu Kuang provinces, handed in by the Grand Secretariat.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Li, 1st Order, and his colleagues reported the result of their recent autumnal review of the Peking Field Force. In accordance with the memorial

presented by the Board of War, his Majesty has appointed Ch'unz Nien, Yü Shu, Siang Pu, Shu Ying, En T'ao, the Marquis of K'è, Tè Lung and Hsi Lang-a to examine his Majesty's food while staying in the Retiring Hall of Abstinence (from meat diet) preparatory to offering at the Temple of Heaven, sacrificial worship for a propitious year, and at other shrines. The Marquis of Lih has asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. P'êng Shou gave thanks for his appointment as inspector of the works at the various temples and shrines.

SURVEYING THE AMUR REGION.

I-kè-tang-a, Tartar-General of Heilung-chiang, and Tsêng Chi, Military Governor of the same, state that they have received instructions from the compilers of the "Collected Institutes of the Dynasty" at Peking to the effect that the maps and topographical reports made by their government with reference to the Heilung-chiang or Amur region and sent on lately to the above department have been returned to the memorialists as incorrect in style and diction, and sending examples for the memorialists to go by. With reference to the above, memorialists beg leave to note that the country under their government is a very wild one, the people of which are generally Tartars whose knowledge of Chinese is very meagre, letting alone the knowledge of surveying and map-drawing by mathematical instruments. To this end therefore memorialists, acknowledging the high importance of the task devolving upon them in this direction, confess their inability to produce qualified men on the spot. The department in charge of compiling the Collected Institutes of the Dynasty have, moreover, demanded that memorialists should have everything completed within the space of three months; under the circumstance related above memorialists are compelled to ask an extension of the Imperial grace for time to engage proper men for the work in hand, from China proper, and these men having been procured, memorialists will set abut the re-survey and make new maps as speedily as practicable. As memorialists have no special fund for this kind of work they are compelled to devise various means apart from the regular exchequer.—*Receipt: Let it be as requested, and let the proper men be taken.*

THE MANCHU EXAMINATIONS AT CANTON.

Kang I, Governor of Kuangtung, states that according to precedent, after the regular Chinese examinations for the

ch'ueh degree at Canton, the duty of a Governor is to collect the Manchu youths belonging to the permanent Tartar garrison of the capital, and other cities of the province, for the purpose of examining their proficiency in translating from Manchu into Chinese and vice versa: the topics of examination being sent down from Peking. Memorialist reports that he had these topics secretly printed, and when the Chinese examinations were over, he immediately issued a notice calling upon the Manchu youths to be examined for the same degree. These translations have now been finished and memorialist is sending them under the charge of a trusty deputy to the Board of Rites at Peking for the purpose of being handed over to the Throne for decision as to the successful candidates.—*Receipt: Noted.*

2nd November.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Suo Chieh, Hsü Yuang-yi, and Li Tuan-fen.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the Office of Court Sacrificial Worship, his Majesty has appointed the Duke of Lan to sacrifice in his Majesty's stead at the Ancestral Shrine of the Imperial Clan. In answer to the memorial of the headquarters of the Household Guards, his Majesty has appointed Prince Tsai Ying, 3rd Order, and four others to command the guard in charge of the Paoho Throne-hall, during the examination of the first batch of new *ch'uehs*, and Prince Tsai Muh, 4th Order, and four others to command the guard in charge of the second batch. The Duke of Chi asks for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties, and Kun Kang, President of the Board of Works, five days'. Wang Wên-ching having been appointed to examine the repairs at the eastern Imperial mausolea asks for instructions before proceeding on his mission.

No news of interest.

3rd November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Appointing a number of officials to the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Yü Tè and Wang Ming-luan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty has appointed the Grand Secretary Lin Shu, and the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Boards Li Hwong-ts'ao, Hsü Kêng-shêng, Sung Shêng, Hsü Fu, Liao Shou-hêng, Li Tuan-fên, and Wang Ming-luan to examine the theses of the candidates for the approaching *chujên* examinations at the capital. Prince Tsai Ch'i, 3rd Order, reports his going into mourning for the death of his father. Kêng Yung-pu reports the result of his examination into the repairs of the Left Middle gate of the Imperial palace. His Majesty has commanded that the criminals, five in number, arrested by the General commanding the Peking gendarmerie be handed over to the Board of Punishments, as well as the eight coffin-pillagers also captured by the same department.

No other news of interest.

4th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ts'ao Ju-lin and thirty of his associates of the first class, T'ui Yao-nien and his thirty-nine associates of the second class and Shu Lin and his thirty-nine associates of the third class, who have been accorded their degrees of *chujên* at the Provincial examinations recently held in the capital, are hereby allowed to contest for the *chin-shih* or metropolitan degree to be held next year. As for Yü K'un and Hsin Mien, belonging to the fourth class at the recent confirmatory examinations, they are commanded to hold over until the next examinations for the metropolitan degree to be held after that of next year.

(2) As Li Hung-chang reports all quiet in the Chihli portion of the Yellow River this year, owing to the vigilance of the officials charged with the river conveyance, and the protection of the Dragon gods, We hereby command that ten sticks of large Tibetan incense be sent on to Li Hung-chang who is ordered to send them on to the acting Ta tai of the Ta-Shun-Kuang Circuit, Ch'ên Ch'i-t'ai, who shall reverently burn the incense at the temples of the Dragon gods at Lilienchuang, Kaots'ün and Huangchuang, as a mark of gratitude from us for the protection to life and property thus afforded by the gods. As for the request preferred by Li Hung-chang for the recognition of the services of the various officials at the Yellow River, let the proper Board report thereon.

THE COURT.

After breakfast and the transaction of State affairs to-morrow His Majesty will

proceed to the Fasting Palace (abstention from meat, etc.) preparatory to sacrificing at the various temples on the day after. His Majesty gave audience this morning in Grand Council Chamber to Chang Chia-lu, Wu Ch'i-chên, and Tsien Tê-peï. Prince Tsai-ying, of the 3rd Order, will sacrifice in his Majesty's stead at the Ancestral Shrines to-morrow.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty has appointed the consort of the Eighth Imperial Princess, Kuo Lê-min, Kêng Yin-pu, and Ch'ang Lin to be Inspectors in-General of the Tartar wards of the capital for the following term. In response to the memorial of the Board of Works, Hwai T'a-pu, President of that Board, has been appointed to be in charge of the powder works of the Shengchiying (Peking Field Force). The Prince of Chuang, 1st Order, asks for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties and the Marquis of Sing twenty days.'

THE COAST DEFENCE FUND.

T'an Chung-lin, Viceroy of the Min-Chô province, presents a report of the results of the sale of rank and the money attained thereby for the fund of the coast defence of the Empire, for the year 1893 (19th year of the reign of Kuang Hsü). From 1890 to December 1892 the sum of Tls. 59,336.80 has been paid at various times by people desiring to buy official rank of various grades, and the money collected has been sent in accordance with former instructions at various times to the Admiralty Board and the Viceroy of Chihli. Owing to the building of extra forts for the defence of Amoy, memorialist obtained permission to divert this fund towards arming those forts, the said collection to end some time during the month of July, 1893, and in this way the sum of Tls. 95,269.12 has been collected to pay for part of the big guns contracted for from abroad. This sum being insufficient, memorialist has been permitted to go on with the collection until the end of the year, and commencing from August last, some Tls. 38,621.04 have been paid in by fifty-eight officials and others for extra rank, etc., a detailed account of which is herewith appended.—*Rescript*: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

5th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

The Assistant Grand Secretaries Lin Shu and Hsü T'ung, who were ordered to compare the theses of such of the candidates

at the recent *chujên* examination as were suspected of fraudulently obtaining their degrees, report that the subsequent thesis of one Ts'ai Hsio-yuan did not tally in composition with his original paper; that the penmanship of Huang Shu-shêng was not the same as in the original thesis; and that neither the composition nor the penmanship of one Wan Hang tallied in either. We command that these three *chujên* shall be forthwith deprived of their degree. As for Chow Hsio-hsi, T'ang Pao-lin, and Ch'ên Pu-luan, whose subsequent theses tallied in both penmanship and composition, let the Board of Rites memorialise us to appoint a day for the usual Palace examinations from which they have been prohibited by a former decree from joining with the other fellow graduates.

(2) Hung Liang-p'ing, the Supervising Censor, has memorialised us about the condition of the Yungting river, asking that proper measures may be settled upon for the prevention of future mishaps. With reference to this we command that the Boards of Admiralty, Works, and Revenue forthwith report thereon in a joint memorial.

There was no Court held to-day.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Grand Secretary Ngêh-la-ho-pu, and Shou Ying, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, have been appointed to preside over the examination of the theses of the Manchu *chujên* candidates. The consort of the Eighth Princess and his colleagues gave thanks for their recent appointments and Huai T'a-pu, for his appointment as Commissioner of the powder-works of the Peking Field Force. Prince Hsiling of the Kalpa Mongols ask for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. The Duke of Tsê, having completed his leave, reports his return to Court duties. Yi Kung reported to his Majesty the result of his examination of the repairs made to the Left middle gate of the Palace.

CHEKIANG CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEIYANG COAST DEFENCE FUND.

Sung Chin, Governor of Chêkiang, reports sending the sixth instalment of Tls. 40,000, for the year 1893, as part of Tls. 320,000 to be paid by his province for the Peiyang Coast defence fund, of which Tls. 200,000 have already so far been sent up to the Viceroy of Chihli at various times. The above sum of Tls. 40,000 he sends by the Jêh Shêng-ch'ang Bank which

has orders to deliver the money to the Chihli government as usual.—*Receipt: Let the Board of Admiralty take a te.*

6th November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

As the post of prefect of T'aiyuanfu, Shansi, is the most important in that province, we command the Governor to choose out of all the officials of prefectural rank under him the one best qualified for the post, and let the post vacated by this officer be given to Pao Liang.

THE COURT.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 6.30 o'clock to the Chungthrono-hall to grant general audience. His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Grand Secretary Lin Shu and to Liao Shou-hêng, Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Shu, 1st Order, Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order, and the Earl of Chao, having completed their leaves of absence, reported their return to Court duties. The Dukes of Pao and Ling, Ch'ung Li and A Kô-tan, all ask for five days' leave from Court duties, and the consort of the Eldest Imperial Princess asks for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

FRAUDULENT LITERARY GRADUATES.

The Assistant Grand Secretaries Lin Shu, an Imperial Clansman, and Hsü T'ung jointly memorialise us to the results of their investigations into the cases of six students alleged to have attained their *chujên* degrees by fraud. On the 1st of November, memorialists received his Majesty's decree transmitted through the Grand Secretariat to the effect that the Censor Lien Chih had denounced a number of the new *chujên*, accusing them of having obtained their degrees by fraudulent practices, and requesting that punishment should be inflicted on the guilty persons, owing to which accusations memorialists were appointed by the Throne to investigate the matter. Memorialists accordingly obtained from the Board of Rites the theses of Chou Hsio-hsi, T'ang Pao-lin, Ts'ai Hsio-yuan, Ch'ên Pu-luan, Huang Shu-shêng and Wan Hang, which had been considered by the then examiners at Peking to deserve success, in order to compare them with their previous papers and see whether they tallied in calligraphy and composition. In the meanwhile the before

named six persons had according to an edict been temporarily taken off from the list of new graduates, pending investigation. Memorialists have found that the mistake made in the first papers of Ts'ai Hsio-yuan were innumerable, while his poetry was ridiculous in thought and missing lines. None of them talked in composition or diction with his last thesis which procured him success, although the calligraphy was all right. The composition of Huang Shu-shên tallied in all respects, but the calligraphy was different in the various papers. As for Wan Hang neither composition, diction nor calligraphy tallied when his various theses and poems were examined. The papers of Chou Hsiao-hai, T'ang Pao-lin and Ch'en Pu-luan, the other three persons out of the six accused by the Censor Lien Chih, apparently tallied in every respect with each other. Having carefully gone over their work, memorialists have now firmly enclosed the papers of these six persons to send to the Palace for his Majesty's personal perusal and decision.—*Rescript: Decree already published.*

No other news of interest.

7th November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

In response to the memorial of the Tartar-General Yu Lü of Fêngt'ien, requesting us to appoint a propitious day for the commencement of repairs to be made to the Chaolin mausolea and Lungên Hall, at Moukden, we command the Board of Imperial Astronomers to settle upon some propitious day in November for the ceremony of breaking earth for repairs, and that a notice to that effect be forthwith sent to the Tartar-General of Fêngt'ien and the Vice-President of the Moukden Board of Works to pay reverent attention to the day thus appointed for the commencement of the repairs under their supervision.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Pao Liang, prefect-elect to Shansi. To-morrow the Emperor will go at 4.30 a.m. to sacrifice at the Ancestral Temple of the dynasty and then return to the Palace. At 6 o'clock sharp, his Majesty invites the chosen Princes and Ministers of his Court to accompany him at the Feast of Flesh, according to the annual custom, after which his Majesty returns to the Lake Palaces.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

H'un Kang, President of the Board of Rites, asks for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Pao Liang, the prefect-elect of Shansi, gave thanks for his appointment. His Majesty has commanded his Court to commence wearing squirrel-skin robes, beginning from to-morrow until further notice.

A MAGISTRATE DENOUNCED.

Kang I, Governor of Kuangtung, states that according to a despatch from the Goro, Ch'êng Yün, Provincial Treasurer, the acting district magistrate of Hsü-wênhsien, who has owed the government the sum of Tls. 350 odd, while acting in the above-named capacity, having been repeatedly called upon to make good the said amount, has hitherto always made some excuse or other to account for failing to pay his debt. This official has already been denounced for some other misdemeanour, and it is but right his conduct in this respect should also be made known to the Throne. Memorialist therefore requests permission to grant the said ex-acting magistrate of Hsüwênhsien, Kuangtung, the cashiered expectant department magistrate Fei Shao-wei, a further extension of two months to pay back the sum he owes the Provincial exchequer which he failed to pay from the revenues during his acting magistracy, failing which memorialist intends to punish him according to the severe law provided for in such cases.—*Rescript: Let it be as requested and let the proper Board also take note.*

8th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) A decree commending the zeal shown by Li Hung-chang and his subordinates, the Provincial Judge of Chihli, Chow Fu, and others of lesser rank in closing the breaches in the Yungting river. Various rewards are therefore given to these officers and many reinstated in their posts and ranks which were taken away in the first instance for not being able from the beginning to prevent the bursting of the river's banks.

(2) Chang Hsü has memorialised us requesting permission to imprison the former departmental magistrate of T'ok'otu, Shansi, named Wang Ech-huang, who, while filling the said post, became indebted to the provincial exchequer for a large sum in the regular and sundry revenues, and enforce payment of the same. As this cashiered officer has been guilty of indifference to the constituted authorities by refusing to pay his debts when asked to, we

command that he be incarcerated and forced to pay his debts, and we further command that his property, whatever it may be, in Shansi be confiscated, while the Governor of Shantung shall investigate in his native town the amount of his property in that province, all of which is to be confiscated and sold for the benefit of the government.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Tê Shêng, newly appointed to be Superintendent of Customs (Hoppo) at Canton. His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 6.30 o'clock to the Kunning Palace for the purpose of eating the "Banquet of Flesh" (sacrificial meats), to which a number of favoured Princes and Ministers of Court have been also invited.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Board of Civil Appointments handed to his Majesty this morning the list of officers for duty this month (10th moon) at Court, and the Board of Imperial Astronomers also handed for his Majesty's sanction the calendar and almanac for the ensuing year (20th year of the reign of Kuang Hsü—1894-95.) Tê Shêng, the new Hoppo of Canton, asked for instructions before proceeding to his post.

THE LATE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF FUKIEN.

The Governor-General of the Min-Ché provinces, T'an Chun-lin, an officer of the premier button, states that he has received a personal report from Chang Ting-t'ai, *aide de camp* of the Commander-in-Chief of the land forces of Fukien, Sün K'ai-hua, to the effect that the latter official having caught a severe cold, became so affected thereby that his old complaints revived, which becoming by degrees more severe resulted in his death on the 6th of October last, at headquarters, Amoy. On looking over the records of the career of the late General, memorialist finds that he was a military student during his youth, in which capacity he joined the Ting Army Corps under the late Governor and General Pao Ts'ao, and saw much service in the provinces of Hupéh, Kiangsi, Anhui and Honan, owing to which Sün K'ai-hua, the subject of this memorial, received numerous honourable but severe wounds. He then fought against the Taiping rebels in the South and in Chiayingchou, Kuangtung, and performed signal services, being instrumental in crushing the rebellion in that part of the province. In the 5th year of the reign of T'ung Chih (1867) Sün K'ai-hua was promoted to be the Brigadier-

General of Changchow, Fukien, and subsequently became acting Commander-in-Chief twice. He then crossed the channel to Formosa to bring about the pacification of the savages, and was made Assistant Imperial Commissioner of Coast Defence in that island in September, 1884, and eventually *de facto* Commander-in-Chief of Fukien, in which capacity he had an audience with the Throne. On his return to the South, both the army and the people were the recipients of his gentle and judicious government. Last year when the natives of the mountainous department of Têhua rose in insurrection, Sün K'ai-hua led his troops in person and finally crushed it by capturing the leaders. It is therefore a matter of great regret that this distinguished officer should be cut off thus unexpectedly, and the Throne has lost an able and faithful servant. But the post vacated by him is a most important one, and it behoves the memorialist to request the Throne to appoint his successor at once. The late General had seen over thirty years of severe military service, and memorialist thinks the his Majesty should give a mark of Imperial recognition.—*Rescript already published (vide Gazette of October 30th).*

MINING DIFFICULTIES IN YUNNAN.

T'ang Chüng, Imperial Commissioner of Mining Industries in Yunnan, an officer bearing the honorary rank of a Governor, reports in a postscript memorial the receipt of a petition from the Copper Mining Company of Yunnan, which runs to the following effect:—In the winter of 1890, the said company borrowed from government Tls. 300,000, with the proviso at first of spreading the date of returning the loan over a period of ten years. But owing to objections being made on the ground of the time being too long, it was finally arranged that six years only should be given for the payment of this sum, commencing with the spring of 1891. But prior to this, another sum of Tls. 100,000 had been lent to the company by the local authorities to help on the work at the mines, which has just been fully paid-up, while three years of the six allowed as above will have already expired by the end of this year. Difficulties, however, sprang up in the year just past owing to the disastrous rains which then afflicted a great portion of the province whereby the furnaces at the works were undermined and the pits submerged by water. By the expenditure of several tens of thousands of taels the company had just succeeded in putting everything on its usual basis when, sooth to say, the rains of

this year have been even more severe and disastrous than those of 1892, inasmuch that the labour of the company has been entirely lost again, and it is now necessary to prepare funds for its restoration once more. Again, the violence of the rains of the past two years has almost completely devastated the country, so that the exorbitant price of Tls. 15 to Tls. 16 had at one time to be paid at the mines for one picul of rice, which presently rose up to the unprecedented price of over Tls. 30. Although it might be remarked that the Viceroy of Yün-Kwei and the Governor of Yunnan through their deputies were unremitting in their endeavour to relieve by various means the universal distress of the people, still the miners could not be included in the category of relief, as having no homes or landed property in the district they gained their livelihood by the use of the hands. To disband the miners, owing to the high price of grain, would be to let loose an army of sturdy, hardy and desperate men on the already over-stricken country. There was no alternative but for the company to face the situation by providing at a great sacrifice for the wants of these miners. Moreover, the price of charcoal and coals had also risen exorbitant prices, such as over Tls. 60 for every hundred piculs. Thus, with the unprecedented prices of grain and the means to cook it, the company were put to spending enormous sums, while the high price of coals and charcoal to smelt the copper ore brought the expense to over Tls. 20 per picul. Although his Majesty's bounty allowed the company to charge Tls. 1 extra for every picul of copper sold to government, still owing to the extraordinary expenditure they have been put to as noted above, the losses sustained by the company to fulfil their yearly contract to the government at Peking have been enormous. To alleviate the surrounding distress the company lent the country people owning private furnaces rice and other assistance in order to try and bring in large harvests; the rains have destroyed nearly everything and through this and other channels the company has loaned out to these people nearly Tls. 150,000. The company cannot now attempt to enforce repayment, for then the people would have to stop their private smelting furnaces and abscond, which at the present crisis would make matters all the worse. For even now they find it hard to fill the contract number of piculs of copper bars a year for transportation to Peking. Under these circumstances, therefore, the company has petitioned memorialists to

ask for the Imperial grace to allow them three years more for the paying back of the last named loan of Tls. 300,000, in order that they may have time to recover themselves from the disastrous effects of the past two years.—*Rescript: Granted; let the proper Board take note.*

9th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Wang Wên-shao, Governor-General of the Yün-Kwei provinces, reports that the *congé* allowed for the rest required to make himself well again has now expired without accomplishing the desired effect, hence he prays that he may be allowed to vacate his post entirely in order to regain his health at home, etc. We command that Wang Wên-shao still keep his post, allowing him a further respite of two months from duty.

(2) The Censor P'ang Hung-shu in his memorial praying that orders may be issued for stricter observance of the regulations of the examination hall of Kiangnan (Lower Kiangsu and Anhui), states that the students of these provinces have been accustomed to leave the halls after handing in their first thesis and then leisurely to file back in the afternoon for another examination. To such an extent are the regulations disregarded that servants have been known even to enter the forbidden precincts for the purpose of bringing in their masters' things, and that even outsiders are allowed to push their way into the grounds and loiter about. Hence fraudulent practices have every chance of accomplishment which is a serious breach of the regulations, and a disgrace to law and order. If these charges be true, we command the Governors of Kiangsu and Anhui to pay personal attention to this matter and they are moreover ordered during the examination, to impress upon the students the obligations they are under when they present themselves at the halls, so that if hereafter any more infringements of the regulations be brought to these officials' notice, they must be swift and severe in punishing the culprits.

His Majesty held no court to-day, being occupied in the K'unning palace.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Kung sent a memorial thanking His Majesty for the honour done him of having a platter of sacrificial meat sent him. Kuo Lê-mün, having completed his leave of absence, reports his return to Court duties.

HORSES FOR THE IMPERIAL NEWS.

Fu-lê-min-a, Military Governor of Tarbagatai, and his colleagues report that

according to the requisition provided by law, that the government of Tarbagatai should provide at stated intervals the best horses procurable in the country for the Emperor's special use, he is now sending four geldings picked out by himself and two horses sent by the Assistant Resident of the Nomad Oolots, T'u-wa-ch'iang-a, for transmittal to the Imperial mews. Although the colour of the horses in question is not exactly similar, still their qualities and docility commend them as fit for His Majesty's use. The officer in charge has orders to take them through the best watered and fruitful country en route to Peking, arriving at which he has been commanded to hand them over to the Department of the Imperial Stud. The Military Governors and Residents of Uliassutai, Khobdo and Chahar have been asked to look after these horses as they pass through their territories.—*Rescript: Let the proper department take note.*

10th November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Huang Jên-tai is appointed Taotai of the Yüchiang Circuit of Kiangsi.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Shou Ying, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments and to Ch'ung Li, Senior Lieutenant-General of the Peking Gendarmerie.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince P'u Lun, 4th Order, gives thanks for the Imperial gifts in honour of his birthday. Lien Ying is appointed a Lord Chamberlain. Sêh Ling-a and Shan Lao have been appointed Ushers of the Court audiences. Prince Nayentu, Ch'ang Liu, and En T'ao have been appointed Imperial Commissioners of the Old and New Banner barracks. P'u T'ung, an Imperial Duke has been appointed to sacrifice in his Majesty's stead at the Dynastic Temple on the 13th instant. The Marquis of Lih and the Duke of Pao have asked, the one for ten days' and the other for fifteen days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL CLAN AND OTHERS ARRESTED FOR GAMBLING.

His Majesty gave personal commands this morning to the President of the Imperial Clan Court and the Board of Punishments to form a special tribunal for the trial of Wên Ching, a yellow-girdle, and one hundred and fifteen others arrested on

the charge of gambling or keeping gambling tables, by the General-Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie.

THE INUNDATIONS AT YUNNAN.

T'an Chün-peï, Governor of Yunnan, gives a detailed report of the departments and districts in his province devastated by the floods and rain and hailstorms during the 6th and 7th moons (middle of June to beginning of August, 1893) of the present year. The memorialist desires to state, *en passant*, that he has already, in a series of memorials, made a rough report of the state of the departments and districts of Chienshui, Yungyuan and Wênshan, etc., previously devastated by the inundations, and the work of the deputies and local authorities with reference thereto. Now he is able to give a detailed account from the various petitions of the local magistrates and headmen belonging to the other afflicted departments and districts which have since come to hand, as well as a report from the department Salt Commissioner of Peiyen. During the months above noted the townships of Tung'an and others within the department of Anping had from five to six hundred *mow* of arable land submerged and 290 families were rendered houseless by the destruction of their houses at Hok'ou. At Ts'ing'ou, belonging to the department of Chungtien, a large tract of ricefields was destroyed by hail and numbers of the habitations of the people came down, injuring the occupants. In the villages of Peich'uan and others in the department of Mênghua, arable land was submerged and damaged beyond recall by the sandy sediment thickly deposited on the surface, while the dykes along Nanchien were washed away and destroyed by the rushing floods. The villages of Ts'aopa, belonging to the district of Mêngtze being partly in low ground had this portion submerged, while the houses of the people were destroyed in large numbers while the grain planted on the high ground was also injured by the keen blast of the northern wind. The arable land in Muhê and Kêts'ün belonging to the district of Chungshih and the lands belonging to the villages of Siaooh, Changhan, and part of the ground given to the Manchu garrisons of Yunnan situated between the districts of P'ingyi and Nanning were also submerged and the dykes destroyed, and a tract of several hundred *mow* of land rendered unfit for cultivation, by being covered by sand and stone sediments. The dykes and houses belonging to the villages of Sitiching, within the

independent department of Chaochow, have mostly been destroyed while a tract of over 400 *mow* has also been irrevocably covered with sand. The government lands rented to the inhabitants of Langkuang in the prefecture of Ningchow have also been submerged by the influx of the sea, as well as the land bordering the sea at T'unghaihsien, all of which territory has been entirely inundated by the sea. Finally, amongst others, owing to the unaccountable swelling up of the salt well of Lachimin, the temples and salt manufactures near by, as well as the houses of the inhabitants, were nearly all submerged and a considerable number of cattle drowned. To all these devastated districts, memorialist has sent deputies to help the local officials to distribute aid to the sufferers, and he has also commanded the opening of the granaries where grain is stored for emergencies, and the sale of their contents at cost, with instructions to the various Taotais, prefects and sub-prefects, to give aid in detail to such as desired it. Instructions have also been sent for the immediate repairing of the dykes and sea-walls, as well as provision to be made for an attempt to plant once more such tracts of land as bore a chance of success in this line. At the instance of the Treasurer Shih Nien-tsu and the Grain Commissioner and various Taotais, memorialist also thinks that allowance should be given by the government to refrain from collecting revenue dues on land according to the seriousness of the floods in each district, to which end detailed accounts will be sent to the Board of Revenue for determination. In all there were thirteen departments and districts affected by the inundations and rain and hailstorms, and the salt wells at Lachimin. This postscript memorial has also received the approbation of Wang Wên-shao, Governor-General of the Yun-Kuei provinces.—*Rescript: Noted.*—*Command your subordinates to give adequate relief to the sufferers in their districts, and warn them against indifference to the welfare of their charges.*

11th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) K'uei Pin is commanded to conduct the archery examination of the "Ch'êng" division of candidates for the degree of military *chujên*, and let K'ê Mên-t'ai preside over the re-examination; Hsi Ching is appointed to do the same for the "Shuh" division and Hsü Shu-min to re-examine them; Prince I Mu, 4th Order, to preside over the "Lieh" division, and Sun Chih-

chiao to re-examine; and Yung Kuei to preside over the "Chang" division, and Li Hung-kuei to re-examine them.

(2) With reference to the memorial of Siang Ling and Hsü Ying-k'uei, Vice-Presidents of the Peking Granaries, at Tungchow, reporting the safe arrival of the tribute grain, through the sea and canal routes, and the request that certain officers connected with the service should be rewarded, it is gratifying to observe the diligence that has been characteristic of everyone concerned, and We command that the said Siang Ling and Hsü Ying-k'uei be turned over to the proper Board for the determination of a reward, and let the list of names recommended by them be given to the Board to be reported upon, while as the Grain Intendant of Kiangsu, Ching Sing, has been especially diligent and careful over his duties, we desire that this last named officer be recommended by the said Board for some extra mark of the Imperial favour.

(3) In response to the memorial of Wu-lai-ch'ung-a, President of the Board of War, complaining that although his leave of absence has expired still his sickness has not been alleviated, and praying for extra leave as well as the appointment of an acting President of the said Board, we command that Wu-lai-ch'ung-a be accorded another month's leave of absence and let Ching Sing act *pro tem.* as President of the Board of War.

(4) Appointing a number of officials to the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

(5) Let En Shün be appointed Inspector of the "Ch'êng" division, Yi Chün Inspector of the "Shuh" division, Siu Lin Inspector of the "Lieh" division, and Chang Ch'ung-hsing Inspector of the "Chang" division at the approaching military *chujên* examinations.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ying Lien, Brigadier-General of Malanchên (? Kalgan), Kung Chao-yuan, Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan, and Huang Jên-tai, newly appointed Taotai of the Yuchiung Circuit of Kuangsi.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Nayentu and colleagues gave thanks for their appointments as Commissioners of the Old and New Banner barracks at Peking. Lien Ying gave thanks for his appointment as Lord Chamberlain of the Inner Precincts, and Tê Ling-a, for his appointment as Usher of the Audience

Chamber. Wang Wên-chin paid his respects and reported his return from inspecting the works at the Eastern Imperial Mausolea. Kung Chao-yuan, Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan, and Ying Lien, Brigadier-General of Malanchên reported their arrival at Peking and asked to be allowed to pay their respects. Huang Jên-tai gave thanks for his appointment to the Taotaihip of the Yuchiang Circuit of Kuangsi. At the instance of the Board of Works asking for the appointment of some high Ministers of the Court to take charge of the repairs required for the Temple of the Most High and the buildings of the Grand Court of Revision, his Majesty has appointed Li Hung-ta'ao and Hsü Yung-yi respectively. The Duke of Ling, the consort of the First Imperial Princess, and A K'ê-tan having finished their leave of absence report their return to Court duties.

No other news of interest.

12th November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Ch'ên Wên-t'ien is appointed First Captain of the right battalion belonging to the command of the Brigadier-General of the Kaochou military division of Kuangtung.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Tai Chung-ch'ien, expectant Taotai, Shên Poasiang, expectant prefect, Li Chia-jui and Ngan Ngo-liang, expectant Tao'ais, and the Comptroller-General of the Imperial Household.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Yen Siu, Liang Shêh, Lien Ying, and Yü Siu, have been appointed by his Majesty to sacrifice at the four temples, belonging to the Imperial household; Ch'ung Kuang and Wên Pih to sacrifice to the tutelary gods of the inner and outer cities of Peking, and Lih Shan to sacrifice to the god of fire of the capital. Ch'ang Shün gives thanks for his appointment as guardian of the Shaoling mausolea. Siang Ling and Hsü Ying-k'uei and their subordinates gave thanks for being turned over to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of suitable rewards for services rendered in the transport of tribute grain to Peking this year. The Duke of Chi asks for twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court. K'un Kang, President of the Board of Rites, having completed his leave pays his respects and reports his return to his duties. Wu-la-hsi-ch'ung-a, President

of the Board of War, gave thanks for being allowed one month's extra leave to recover from sickness. Prince Tsai Ying, of the 3rd Order, and his colleagues gave thanks for their acting appointments.

THE DECAPITATION LIST OF ANHUI.

Shên Ping-ch'êng, Governor of Anhui, reports that he is now making up a list of the robbers beheaded by him this year, without asking for the Imperial rescript, in accordance with the new regulations affecting robbers taken with arms in their hands, promulgated by the Grand Council. There were nine men captured at different times with arms in their possession, and they were arrested in the first instance for robberies committed at Hofei upon a man named Hsien Chen-ho; on Yang Hsing-shün of Mêngch'enghsien; and on Sün Shu-min of Woyanghsien. But upon examination these men confessed to various other desperate deeds in other parts of the country. Under the circumstances and considering the dangerous character of these desperadoes, memorialist ordered their immediate decapitation upon conviction.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.*

13th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Prince Tsai Ying, 3rd Order, is commanded to act *pro tem.* as Captain-General of the Bordered White Mong-lian Banner on behalf of Wu-la-hsi-ch'ung-a now on the sick list.

(2) Wang Yü-tsoo is commanded to fill the post of Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan *vice* Kung Chao-yuan.

[Wang Yü-tsoo is a native of Hupeh, and was formerly Treasurer of Shantung province, when he had to retire for three years into mourning for the death of a parent. He completed his mourning only four months ago, and by this appointment fills a post considered to be the richest and giving the largest emoluments of all the Treasurerships in China.—*Note by Translator.*]

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Kung Chao-yuan, ex-Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan, and Minister-designate to Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, and Sweden and Norway; to Wang Yü-tsoo, ex-Treasurer of Shantung province, now newly-appointed Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan *vice* Kung Chao-yuan transferred; and to Huang Shih-hsü and Ts'ai Chao,

formerly degraded prefects but now restored to their original rank, with the honorary grade of a Taotai.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Chuang, Pa-k'e-tan-pu, Ying Chün, Ming Kuei, and Liang Pei having completed their leave of absence, report their return to Court duties. Ch'ang Sui and colleague, having finished their duties as Special Literary Chancellors of Shantung at the *ch'üjên* examinations in that province, report their return to the capital, and humbly ask after his Majesty's health. The Assistant Special Literary Chancellor of Shansi, Kao Nô, reports the completion of his duties in that province and his return to the capital, with humble enquires after the Imperial health. Kung Chao-yuan, ex-Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan, and Wang Yü-tso, ex-Provincial Treasurer of Shantung, both presented memorials this morning humbly thanking his Majesty for appointing the one to be Minister to Great Britain, France, etc., and the other to be Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan. The degraded Chên-kiang expectant prefect Huang Shih-hü and the degraded Kueichow expectant prefect Ts'ai Chao, having been reinstated to their former ranks by a former decree, were ordered to make themselves ready for presentation to his Majesty.

FRAUDS AT THE EXAMINATIONS.

P'ang Hung, Censor for the Shantung Circuit, reports that when he was appointed to patrol the gates and precincts of the examination halls during the recent competition for the *ch'üjên* or provincial graduate degree held by Special Act of Imperial Grace at Peking and the provinces in hon-our of the sixtieth anniversary of H.L.M. the Empress-Dowager's birthday next year, he found that although many thousands of the candidates behaved decorously and quietly upon entering the hall yet that there was an alarming latitude of extra time granted by the Presidents and officers of the examining Board to the candidates, beyond all proportion and in direct contravention of the regulations governing such occasions. Probably in this instance it was done out of deference to his Majesty's unexpressed desire for allowing each candidate the fullest chance of proving his individual attainments. According to law, however, decreed in previous reigns, students were required at the first set of examinations to hand in their theses and poems not later than four o'clock on the afternoon of the next day after entering the examination

halls. No candles are allowed to be given to the candidates and any infraction made by overstepping the limit of time granted as above would render the examining Board, Proctors, and Assistants as well as the delinquent candidates themselves liable to be denounced to the Throne. Nowadays, memorialist desires to note, and during the recent examinations especially, candidates infringed the regulations during the first set of examinations by going on with their work late into the night of the next day, and instead of handing their papers in in the afternoon did not do so until midnight, or about eight hours beyond the prescribed limit. In this way, when the list of successful candidates was posted at the gates, there was much comment made at the laxity of the examining officers, and many insinuations thrown out that fraud had been allowed full swing, whereby some candidates had obtained their degrees with the help of outside aid. These cases were eventually ordered to be investigated by decree, with the result that three of these new graduates were cashiered. In reality, two days and one night are more than sufficient for the well-read candidates to reveal their best talents. Indeed such persons it is well-known require but a few hours to prove themselves. Hence any extension of time such as has been described only affords temptation to others to give their assistance—for a consideration—to the blockhead. Moreover, during the dark hours of the night chance may be taken advantage of to hand in essays from outside the walls, which under the circumstance make it difficult for the officers in charge to detect. Memorialist regrets to remark that literary candidates of the present day appear to be more unscrupulous than their predecessors and evince a lack of carefulness and earnestness, thereby holding the regulation in contempt and indifference. They also show a disposition to boisterousness and unscholarly conduct, so that it makes it all the more important that these regulations should in future be strictly enforced with all the earnestness that the seriousness and dignity of the function demands. In addition memorialist prays that the Throne will notify the Board of Rites while enforcing the old regulations, so frequently broken at the present day, to their strictest limit, also to proclaim the limit of time for candidates in the *ch'üshih* and *ch'üjên* examinations to hand in their papers at the latest at the setting of the sun of the next day. Nor shall any work be allowed to be done by candle light, and any infringement of

the above rules will be visited by condign punishment, such as the immediate rejection of such papers as are handed in after the proper hour has passed. In this way there is still a hope that the dignity of these examinations will return to the standard which such occasions demand.—*Decree already published.* (9th November.)

LOOSE REGULATIONS IN THE NANKING EXAMINATIONS.

The same Censor in a postscript memorial remarks that of all the provinces in the empire, the candidates for the *ch'ueh* degree who attend the Kiangnan examinations at Nanking number the most. So much so that it generally takes an entire day for the examining Board to call the roll and then distribute the thesis papers to the candidates as their names are called. Hence it turns out that it is exceedingly difficult to enforce strictness and the observance of the regulations of the examination hall. Memorialist has heard that during the recent examinations in that city, candidates who had received their composition papers left the halls again in large numbers, carrying these papers along with them and strolled about at leisure waiting for the closing of the roll call, and thus not returning to their stalls until the day was far spent, generally bringing in their train servants carrying their kit, and outsiders, which is a daring infringement of the rules, and a disgrace to the dignity of such a serious function of the State. Moreover, outsiders have been known to go in and out without let or hindrance from the officers in charge. In this way frauds are easy of accomplishment and not to be prevented. Memorialist prays therefore that orders should be promulgated to the Governor of Kiangsu to enforce upon his subordinates the importance of strict adherence to the rules and regulations which to all appearance were a dead letter on the last occasion.—*Decree already published.* (9th November.)

14th November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

T'ang Ching-ch'ung is appointed Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat with the brevet button of a Vice-President of a Board.

[The above officer is a younger brother of the present Provincial Treasurer of Formosa, and a Hanlin in literary rank.—*Note by Translator.*]

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Liao

Shou-hêng, Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENT.

The Prince of Li gave thanks for the Imperial gift of silks, satins, &c.

THE DEFENCE FUND FOR THE NORTH-EASTERN PROVINCES.

K'uei Chün, Governor of Kiangsu, in a postscript memorial states that in accordance with instructions received through the Board of Revenue, apportioning the sum of Tls. 100,000 from the opium likin taxes of the Shanghai Customs as the Kiangsu contribution to the Defence Fund of the North-Eastern provinces (Fêng'ien, Kirin, and the Amur region or Heilung-chiang) for the year 1893, memorialist gave the necessary orders to Nieh Chih-kuei, the Taotai of the Su-Sung T'ai Military Circuit, who is also Superintendent of Customs at Shanghai, to collect the necessary amount at the earliest date possible. Memorialist has therefore received an intimation from the said Taotai that he has already collected half the required amount, (Tls. 50,000) which he intends to send up to Peking through the Chinese bank T'ien Shün-siang, and requesting memorialist to inform the Throne of the impending remittance. Memorialist, therefore, having received the approval of the Governor-General of the Liangkiang provinces, now prays the Throne to order the proper *yamen* to take note thereof.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

No other news of interest.

15th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chang Jen-fu is this day appointed Groom of the Library of the heir-apparent.

(2) Ch'ung Li, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and Lieutenant-General of the Peking Gendarmerie, and Hsü Ying-k'uei, Chinese Comptroller of the Imperial Granaries at Tungehow, are both allowed by special act of grace to ride on horseback within the precincts of the Imperial palaces, or "Forbidden City."

(3) In response to the Comptroller of the Imperial Household Department, we hereby command the Grand Secretary Fu K'un to sacrifice in our stead at the Temple of the Horse-god.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Chang Ying-huan, and also inspected the tribute of the "nine white" (animals), *ch'ieu-pei*, presented by the Khans of the Khalkha

Mongols, consisting of horses and a camel of pure white.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENT.

Prince Hsin-ling-a, 3rd Order, having finished his leave of absence reports his return to Court duties.

A PRAYER TO BE ALLOWED TO EXCHANGE A PROVINCIAL FOR A METROPOLITAN POST.

Wang Wên-shao, Governor-General of the Yun-Kwei provinces, memorialises as follows:—Having been attacked by a lingering disease memorialist asked some time ago for leave to lay aside his duties for a while, in order to administer remedies to himself as well as to obtain a needed rest. This leave having expired, and his sickness being still unabated, memorialist asked for a lengthened leave, which was granted by the Throne's ever-ready grace. Again this leave had been brought to expiration, with the like unsatisfactory result. Aware of the importance of his post, and feeling that it was but a poor return for his Majesty's ever-constant kindness, memorialist could not ask for a still further extension of leave to the neglect of the duties of his post, and to this end prayed the Throne to allow him to retire from his post of Governor-General, in order that he might make way for abler and more robust officers of the Crown to undertake the onerous and important duties of that office. For the third time memorialist was a recipient of his Majesty's infinite and sacred grace. For in answer to his application came a decree of the 16th of August last to the effect that he was "granted a still further leave of two months to attend to his ailments, there being no necessity for appointing a successor to the Viceroyalty;" an act of sacred grace which was received on bended knees and with tearful gratitude. It showed that his Majesty, unmindful of the mediocrity of memorialist's talents, only took note of how to treat with kindness an unworthy but devoted servant. This brought to his mind a remembrance of his early days when as a youth he first received the Imperial bounty. He remembered that he was one of the first amongst the officers of the present day to be a recipient of Imperial favours and the one who had received the most. He has been a pillar of the Court within, and is now a buckler of the Throne on the frontiers without—a proof that he has been favoured beyond conception. Having obtained leave at the time to return to his native town to wait upon his aged parent,

which came to an end in 1887, and still filled with the ambition to place his body, and, if need be, sacrifice his bones to the service of his master, he thought that not having yet attained the age of sixty he still had many years at his disposal to serve his country, although, indeed, he knew his constitution was not very strong. The spirit indeed was willing, but, alas! the flesh was weak. For his constitution was becoming undermined, and sickness and ill-health came to disturb his ambition by gradual and successive attacks. Sometimes coughs and colds also came in their train, and he became subject to nightly visitations of fever. Or, perhaps, careless of his diet he would again be attacked by diarrhoea and dysentery from too copious draughts of water. In a word, a single indisposition would bring the chills and fever in nine cases out of ten, followed by lingering illness, apparently without cessation; so much so that his left ear has become deaf and the right ear gradually oppressed with a sensation of heaviness. Although this last state may not be properly styled "sickness," still it is a very apparent sign of decay. Memorialist, therefore, thinks that absolute rest is what he requires without the wear and tear and anxiety of business weighing on his mind, which having been attained he is still of opinion that he will in the future to be able to serve his Imperial master. If such a leave be not granted him he greatly fears that another six months of this life will be fatal to his energies of mind, to the detriment of his Viceregal duties. Moreover, the post memorialist holds is an important frontier one; it is by no means a sinecure or retreat for the lotus-eater. Forced to remain, he would be of no good to his country, under his present circumstances, while his Majesty having now refused to appoint a successor, memorialist cannot but think that the anxieties for the welfare and safety of so many thousands of li of frontier would surely overtax his energies to their utmost capacity. Again, he cannot bear the idea of asking for final retirement into private life, for this would indeed be a meagre return for the forty years of Imperial uncton he has continually been receiving. Hence, on bended knees, memorialist would once more beseech the Imperial bounty, having regard to his infirmities, to appoint a successor in his stead for the Governor-Generalship of Yun-Kwei, and give him in exchange some inferior post at the capital, near his Majesty's person, where divested of the many anxieties and arduous duties of his present post

he still hopes with quiet and freedom from great responsibilities to recover, in part, his former health of body.—*Decree already published* (9th November).

16th November.

In honour of the near approach of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager's birthday tomorrow, His Majesty held no audience in the Grand Council Chamber this morning. His Majesty will enter the Inner Palace tomorrow morning, the Empress Dowager's birthday, at 6.30 o'clock, but will come out again at 8 o'clock sharp, and proceed to the Tzening Hall. After going through the ceremonies there, His Majesty will return to the Lake Palaces.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Marquis of Yen having completed his leave of absence reported his return to Court duties. T'ang Chin-sing gave thanks for his appointment to the Sub-Chancellorship of the Grand Secretariat. Ch'ung Li, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and Lieutenant-General of the Peking Gendarmerie, and Hsü Ying-k'uei, Chinese Comptroller of the Imperial Granaries at Peking, gave thanks for the honour of being permitted to ride on horseback within the precincts of the "Forbidden City."

No other news of interest.

17th November.

THE COURT.

This being the fifty-ninth anniversary of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager's birthday, his Majesty granted no public audience nor was any State business transacted, although memorials from the provincial authorities received this day are published as usual.

MONEY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SHANSI.

Chang Hsü, Governor of Shansi, reports that in accordance with the instructions from the Peking government ordering the province of Shansi to send a yearly contribution of Tls. 500,000 to pay the Peking troops and Tls. 100,000 for the military exchequer of the North-Eastern provinces with special reference to the defence of the frontiers, in addition to the Tls. 250,000 for the former and Tls. 50,000 for the latter already sent by memorialist in instalments during the months past commencing from the 1st moon of this year, he wishes now to state that he has received an intimation from Hu Ping-chih, the Treasurer of his province, to the effect that Tls. 100,000 have now been collected from the land taxes for the Peking troops and Tls. 50,000 for the troops garrisoning the

Manchurian provinces, making a total of Tls. 150,000. This sum memorialist has confided to the care of two expectant officials for transmission to the proper quarters at Peking.—*Receipt: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

18th November.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to K'un Kang, President of the Board of Rites.

THE PREFECT OF CH'AOCHOWFU.

A joint memorial by Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Liang Kuang provinces, and Kang I, Governor of Kuangtung, states that they have received the Imperial edict, commanding them to select from amongst the prefects of Kuangtung the man best fitted for the post of prefect of Ch'aochowfu (Swatow), owing to the importance attached to its vicinity to the sea-coast, and the memorialists also acknowledge receipt of the command to give the post vacated by the prefect of their choice to the Emperor's nominee Chou K'ai-min. As the position of Ch'aochowfu is near the sea, and as the people of that prefecture according to the official records bear the reputation of being "turbulent, difficult to govern, and fond of lawsuits," it is evident that none but an able official acquainted with the people could hope to succeed in attending to the duties of the post in a proper manner: for this purpose, memorialists having made a careful examination have selected the present prefect of Ch'ingchow (Hainan island) named Liu Ming-yü for the post in question. The said prefect is aged thirty-four and a native of the capital of Kuangsi (Kueilin). He is also a metropolitan graduate or *chinshih*, was a member of the Hanlin Academy, and afterwards appointed to the Historiographer's department. He was then made Assistant Literary Chancellor both in Kueichow and Hunan provinces, and finally sent to Kuangtung as an expectant officer of the 4th grade (Taotai or prefect). The said Liu Ming-yü is therefore fitted both in his literary attainments and his experience as prefect of the turbulent prefecture of Hainan island to govern the prefecture of Ch'aochowfu with its nine departments and districts, in the proper manner, while his Majesty's nominee Chou K'ai-min will be given, as commanded, the post of prefect of Ch'ingchowfu, *vice* Liu Ming-yü transferred as aforesaid.—*Receipt: Let the Board of Civil Appointments report thereon.*

THE ASSISTANT LITERARY CHANCELLOR OF KUANGTUNG.

Kang I, Governor of Kuangtung, reports in a postscript memorial that he has received a letter from Wu Yü-shêng, Assistant Literary Chancellor of Kuangtung, who writes to the following effect: "I arrived at Canton on the 10th of September, and on the 16th entered upon my duties in the examination hall. While there, I used my best endeavours to conscientiously examine the theses of the *chujên* candidates confided to me, and marked my approval of the regulation number of the best theses. On the 19th of October, the list of successful candidate having been published, my duties are accordingly finished, and by rights I should immediately set about to return to my duties at Peking and report myself to the Throne. But having been absent from my native town for the last ten years, all of which time has been occupied in duties at the capital, the graves of my parents and ancestors have accordingly been neglected, which it is my desire to repair. As my home is on the sea-coast and can be reached by steam communication, you will do me a great favour by memorialising the Throne on my behalf asking for one month's leave of absence, in order that I may visit my native place which can be reached in a few days from Canton, etc." With reference to the above, memorialist therefore prays that the Throne may grant the leave asked for.—*Rescript: Wu Yü-shêng is granted one month's leave.*

19th November.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Chin Sing, Senior President of the Court of Censors.

THE YÜCHIANG TAOTAIHIP OF KUANGSI.

Chang Lien-kuei, Governor of Kuangsi, states that as the Throne has allowed by a decree the petition of the present incumbent of the Yüchiang Taotaihip, Ts'ui Kuo-pang, to return to his native town for the purpose of looking after the graves of his ancestors and parents, which have been neglected by him owing to the press of official duties which have kept the petitioner many years absent from home, it becomes requisite for memorialist to appoint an acting Taotai in his place. As the said Taotaihip is an important one, having jurisdiction over four prefectures, command over the left wing of the inland naval battalions, and the military secretaryship over all the troops in the intendency of Yüchiang;

and, moreover, because this portion of Kuangsi province is usually disturbed by roving bands of desperadoes and bandits, which requires considerable attention and care on the part of the incumbent of the Yüchiang Taotaihip, it is evident that none but an experienced officer should be appointed to the spot. Memorialist, after looking over the list of officials of the required rank in his province, has selected the present prefect of Kueilin (capital of the province), Tsao Shih-hsi, who is also an expectant Taotai, as the one best qualified for the acting post, this officer having considerable abilities, much experience, and an intimate knowledge of the people under his jurisdiction. His Majesty's approbation is therefore asked to this appointment.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

20th November.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to A K'ê-tan. To sacrifice in his Majesty's stead, P'u Hsüen, an Imperial clansman, bearing the brevet button of the premier grade, was appointed this morning to worship at the shrine of the Imperial Ancestors.

ARTICLES FOR IMPERIAL USE.

Shên Ping-ch'ên, an officer bearing the brevet button of the premier rank, and Governor of Anhui, states that on the 23rd of April last he received a despatch from the Comptroller-General of the department of the Imperial household to the effect that on the 9th of March, while his Majesty was in the Mowch'ing Throne-hall, the said Comptroller-General received a verbal order from the Emperor, desiring the Governor of Anhui to prepare and send for his Majesty's personal use the following articles:—

	Pieces.
Crimson gold-brocaded (four dragons) handkerchiefs, 1ft. 9in. square.....	600
Variogated coloured silks (16ft. by 8ft).....	200
White silks (16ft. by 8ft).....	200
Fine Huichow (Fychow) Ink, in 2 oz. tablets	600

The above articles were to be paid for out of the Customs receipts of Fêngyangfu, and memorialist was desired to be careful to see that the things were carefully made. As the handkerchiefs and silks have to be ordered from Soochow, and Fêngyangfu being at a good distance from the place of

manufacture, memorialist decided to send proper deputies with the necessary funds to Soochow to superintend the making of these articles. The ink desired, being made in memorialist's province, was a more easy matter, but as the tablets of ink are usually packed in boxes of sixteen each, memorialist now sends 640 tablets, or 40 more than he was required to send. They are all ready now for sending up to Peking, and the list, with description of each article, has been prepared by the Customs authorities of Fêngyangfu, while the articles themselves have also been stamped with the above words.—*Rescript: Let the said Department take note.*

21st November.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Li Wên-tien, Vice-President of a Board, and the Grand Councillor Yung Kuei.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Jui, 1st Order, and his colleagues reported the completion of their duties at the military examinations. The Marquis of Lih reported his return to Court duties having completed his leave of absence. Li Wên-t'ien, having been appointed Literary Chancellor of the Metropolitan Prefecture of Shünt'ienfu, asked for instructions. Sün Chia-nai, President of the Board of Works, asked for five days' leave of absence from Court duties. The Duke of Yü asked for two months' leave of absence from Court.

GINSENG FOR IMPERIAL USE.

Ch'ang Shün, Tartar General and Military Governor of Kirin, reports that he has succeeded in getting from the ginseng hills of Kirin, the second instalment of ginseng required this year for His Majesty's use. The ginseng obtained in this instance is extra fine and superior to former instalments. That which the memorialist is sending now consists of eight roots of the number one size hill ginseng, and fourteen roots of the middle size, making a total weight of eight and one half ounces. The price for the lot was Tls. 1,752.25, paid out of the usual Ginseng Customs' receipts. He is sending it under the charge of Yung Ts'ün, a hereditary military noble of the 9th grade, the ginseng in question being packed in two boxes.—*Rescript: Let the Department of the Imperial Household take note.*

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE HANGCHOW SILK LOOMS.

Ying Jui, an officer of the brevet second button and Imperial Commissioner of the Government Silk Looms at Hangchow, gives humble thanks for being allowed to retain his post another year, the decree commanding this having been received by him on the 5th of October last.—*Rescript: Noted.*

AN ABORIGINAL CHIEFTAIN DENOUNCED.

Lin Ping-chang, Governor-General of Szechuan, states that on the 23rd of June, 1892, a decree was obtained by him sanctioning the appointment of one En-pu-sê-lang to succeed Fu-jên-chên-wang, chieftain of the aboriginal tribe of Chok'ochi, within the jurisdiction of the sub-prefect having control over the aboriginal tribes of that department, owing to the death of the said Fu-jên-chên-wang who had recently died childless and bereft of lineal heirs. Lately, however, the acting Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan, Wên Kuang, has reported to the memorialist that the new chieftain, has so lost respect of himself as to act with contumely and great recklessness, and has been so overbearing in his conduct to his neighbours that the headmen of the various tribes are in a state of rebellion, defying the man's authority. This unseemly conduct has been reported to the Treasurer by the above named sub-prefect of the aborigines, who recommends the cashiering and removal of the said En-pu-sê-lang, and asks that the said sub-prefect may be empowered to choose a worthier person to succeed the line of the late chieftain Fu-jên-chên-wang.—*Rescript: Let it be so, and let the proper yamen take note.*

22nd November,

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Grand Councillor and Lord Chamberlain Yung Kuei memorialises that there is a discrepancy in the present examinations for the military grades of *chujên*: the Board of War and Governor of Shünt'ienfu are therefore commanded to investigate the matter, find out what are the old regulations governing such occasions, and report the same to us at an early date.

(2) The Prince of I, 1st Order, is commanded to examine the beasts for sacrifice to be offered at the Autumnal Equinox at the Temples of Heaven and Earth, and Li Hung-tsoo to watch the sacrifices.

(3) The Prince of K'ech'ing, 2nd Order, Prince Tsai Ying, 3rd Order, Fu K'un,

Grand Secretary, and Ch'ung Kuang are appointed to supervise the distribution of rewards to the troops.

(4) Troops who have borrowed their pay in advance are compelled by law to have the interest deducted monthly from their wages; by special act of grace we command that no interest be deducted on the 12th moon of this year and the 1st moon of next year, but let the interest lie over until the succeeding two months.

(5) Wang Ming-luan and Wu Chiang are appointed Chief and Assistant Examiners respectively of the approaching military examinations for the *chujün* degree.

(6) Wên Yü and Wang P'êng-yün are appointed Proctors of the same.

(7) Hsü Ting-siang and Ch'êng Chung-yu are appointed to take charge of the literary compositions of the military candidates in the above named examinations.

(8) Chang Shih-ch'uan, Ts'ao Hui, Chow Ju-chün and Lou Ch'i-ch'i are appointed Proctors of the Outer Precinct of the same.

(9) Ch'ung Nien, Lieutenant-General in the Imperial Guards, is appointed Preserver of Peace within the Inner Precincts of the same.

(10) The Supervising Censor, T'ang Ts'ün-shêng, has memorialised us as to the great number of fraudulent practices that have recently obtained during the examinations, and requests that orders may be decreed to eradicate them; with reference to the above the Board of Rites is ordered to report thereon.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ts'ien Ying-p'u, Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and to Ch'ang Ling, Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Peking Gendarmerie.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Ch'ing, 2nd Order, has been appointed to take His Majesty's place in worshipping on the 2nd of December at the shrine of the Imperial Ancestors. The Grand Secretary Fu K'un gave thanks for the Imperial gifts in honour of his birthday anniversary.

SNOW AT PEKING.

The first good snowfall of this winter ended on the 21st instant, and the Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture of Shün-t'ienfu memorialises a fall of over four inches.

THE DECAPITATED CRIMINALS OF FORMOSA.

Shao Yü-lien, Governor of Formosa, reports that he has already given the Throne a list for the spring term of this year of criminals beheaded on the spot, for such crimes as robbery with violence and murder, overt acts of rebellion, and banded pillage by discharged soldiery, according to the new law promulgated a few years ago. Memorialist now sends a list of twelve names of culprits who have been summarily decapitated on similar grounds during the summer term just passed. One prisoner who died in prison had his head struck off from the corpse.—*Re-cript; Noted. Let the Board of Punishments take note.*

METHODS OF CHECKING FRAUDS AT THE EXAMINATIONS.

T'ang Ts'ün-shêng, Supervising Censor and Keeper of the Seal of the Board of War, makes a memorial concerning the numerous frauds existing during the examinations for the *chünshih* and *chujün* degrees, (metropolitan and provincial graduates) both at Peking and in the provinces. He now respectfully begs to present for approval certain rules which he hopes may be the means of checking in a great part these frauds. Memorialist also prays that the Throne may issue stringent orders to those whom it may concern to exercise the strictest vigilance in preventing a repetition of frauds in the future. In 1808, his Majesty's illustrious predecessor, Chia Ch'ing, was pleased to issue an edict stating that for his own part his Majesty framed laws with the primary intention that by inflicting a light chastisement on the few, the many might be warned from transgressing. But such is the innate depravity of human nature that they mistake the mercy of the law maker for leniency, and hence feel no restriction in sinning. Hence his Majesty has had recourse to inflicting severe punishment in order to prevent the commission in the future of great crimes. Upon the exposure of the candidates who had obtained their degrees fraudulently during the recent examinations last autumn, the Throne only punished the culprits by loss of their degrees, which proves the beneficent and merciful heart of his Majesty. But examinations are the special outcome of broad statesmanship and they are the highest institutions of this empire, hence there is every necessity for a strict adherence to the rules and regulations of his Majesty's predecessor on the Throne of this country, and according to the humble opinion of the memorialist should be at once set to rights accordingly. For this

reason memorialist begs to present the following rules which he prays the Throne to approve of:—

(1.) The literary examination precincts are very broad and spacious, and the watch tower is inadequate for a survey of the whole place. The thorn-armed wall, and the eastern and western dragon avenues with the newly built halls are easy of being escalated, owing to the fact that the streets outside the precincts are daily growing higher by accumulation of filth and dirt which makes the walls in question proportionately lower. During dark nights, therefore, it is extremely difficult to guard against an invasion by outsiders. Memorialist finds on searching into the records that in the year 1659 (15th year of Shün Chih, first emperor of this dynasty) it was decreed that the walls surrounding examination halls of every kind should be exceptionally high, while they should be compassed by broad and deep fosses. If this plan be resorted to hereafter, then it would be proper to severely punish the inspectors within and without the walls should any outsider succeed in the first instance in getting within the walls. But memorialist thinks that by an adherence to the old regulation there would be no fear of outside trespassers. Censors should also be posted outside the walls to patrol the place during the first, second and third examinations. Nay, he recommends that they continue their patrolling day and night up to the date of publishing the list of successful graduates. Their special duty would be to prevent any communication between the candidates and outsiders, such as handing theses to be composed outside or notifying outsiders the subjects for essays, and to arrest anyone trying to jump over the walls one way or the other.

(2) Candidates should try to be within the precincts long before the time of roll-call, and their sponsors should also be on the grounds to point out those whom they have guaranteed. They should also wait for the second roll-call given to those who have been laggard in attending at the first call. For it is at this second roll-call that many outsiders manage to get smuggled in, as by this time the sponsors have already left the grounds. In the future should any substitutes be found out, not only should these be severely punished but also the sponsors who are supposed to guarantee against frauds.

(3) Owing to the great crowds the roll-calling Censor must find it extremely difficult to recognise the candidates. The latter

should therefore each bear a lantern attached to a long bamboo pole bearing the names of their stalls, province and prefectural towns. In the case of Tartars these should have their banners and towns written on their lanterns.

(4) Censors policing the outside precincts of the walls should pay special care in trying to ferret out the nests of the would-be substitutes who try, for a sum of money, to pass for the proper candidates. On finding the proprietors of these nests they should at once be arrested, so that no one would dare in future to harbour such men.

(5) Candidates should only be allowed to carry a bamboo or wicker-work basket 'k'aofan' to carry their food, etc. Of late years some candidates have been guilty even of carrying into the halls large-sized trunks and baggage. The Princes and high Ministers and Censors in charge should be ordered at once to expel such persons carrying these wholesale receptacles for "cribs," etc.

(6) The proper rule of former times was that the officers and men comprising the police in charge of the halls, should consist of those from the gendarmerie of the five wards of Peking. In recent times these have been too lazy to appear themselves but hire a lot of ragged beggars to take their places, who take every opportunity of thieving whatever they can lay hands on. The extreme laxity of everyone concerned is therefore prolific of every kind of excess and fraud. Censors and officers in charge should therefore denounce the persons guilty of such laziness.

Memorialist humbly prays that these suggested rules should receive his Majesty's favourable consideration, in order that something may be done for the proper observance of examination regulations, which as they now stand are a disgrace to the country.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Rites report thereon.*

23rd November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) K'un Kang, President of the Board of Rites, is appointed Preceptor of the Hanlin Bachelors.

(2) Yü Tè, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, is appointed Vice-President of the Bureau in charge of the Collected Institutes of the dynasty.

(3) A decree appointing some minor officials to the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber

to Yuan Fêng-lin, newly-appointed Provincial Judge of Anhui and to Chang Yung-ta'ing, Brigadier-General of Kansu.

His Majesty has ordered the Court and all officials in the Empire to commence wearing robes lined with white fur at the edges.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Li, 1st Order, and his colleagues reported the results of their inspection of the mobilised Banner Corps at Yangshanwa. Prince P'ulun, 4th Order, asked for ten days' and the Duke of Lan for five days' leave of absence from Court duties. The Marquis of Sing asked for fifteen days' extra leave of absence from Court owing to prolonged indisposition. Yuan Fêng-lin, Judge-designate of Anhui, and General Chang Yung-ta'ing of Kansu reported their arrival at Peking and humbly asked after the Imperial health.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KUEICHOW MILITARY EXCHEQUER.

Sung Fan, Governor of Kueichow, reports having received up to the 7th moon of the present year the following sums for the military exchequer of his province:—

From Kiangsu.	Tls.
Shanghai Customs	3,750
Soochow Likin	1,500
Yangchow Salt Likin	3,000
From Szechuan.	
Salt Likin and Customs dues (for the 4th moon).....	28,000
Do. do. (for the 5th moon)....	12,000
From Shantung.	
Tsinanfu Likin dues	7,000
From Kuangtung.	
Canton Customs.....	10,000
Total... Tls.	65,250

The Acting Provincial Treasurer T'ang Shu-shêng, having requested memorialist to report to the Throne the receipt of the above-named sums, and memorialist having found the vouchers correct, has, in addition to the present memorial, also notified the Board of Revenue with regard to the same.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.*

24th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We feel that owing to the severe cold of the present weather and in consideration of the various duties falling upon the troops just now that they deserve

some extra mark of grace from us. We command, therefore, that the Banner troops as well as the Chinese regulars (Green turbaned) in the capital be granted half-a-month's extra pay and grain at once.

(2) Owing to the distress caused by the severity of the present weather, to such of the unemployed belonging to the Imperial clan and the *Giuro* or collateral branch of the Imperial clan, who might naturally find it hard to make both ends meet, under present circumstances, we command that one month's extra rations and money be granted them in token of our sympathy. To such of the widows and orphaned members of the Imperial clan, lineal as well as collateral, we command that in addition to the above allowance, they be given an extra grant of half-a-month's rations and money over and above the regular grants.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Assistant Grand Secretary Lin Shu and to Hsü Yung-yi, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Jui, 1st Order, and Sung Kuei, President of the Board of Punishments, asked for five days' leave of absence from Court duties. Li Shan, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, and Fu Shêng-pu, Colonel of the Household Guards, asked for ten days' leave of absence, and Ch'êng Tuan for fifteen days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. K'un Kang, President of the Board of Rites, gave thanks for his appointment as Preceptor of the Hanlin Bachelors, and Yü Tê, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, gave thanks for the honour of being made also Vice-President of the Bureau in charge of the Collected Institutes of the dynasty.

No news of interest.

25th November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Appointing a large number of officials to the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning to Hai Ching, President, Ch'ung-li, Senior Vice-President, and Chên Hsio-fên, Junior Vice-President, respectively, of the Board of Revenue.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENT.

The Duke of Pao, having completed his leave of absence, reported his return to Court duties.

LAMAIST AND MONGOLIAN PRESENTS TO THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER AND THE EMPEROR.

K'uei Huan, Imperial Resident at Lassa, the capital of Tibet, reports that the Dalai Lama (Buddhist Pope), the various *Hutukt'u* (saints) the Mongol titular dukes and nobles, and Councillors of State at Lassa and elsewhere, having regard to the approaching celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager's birthday next year, have requested the memorialist to forward their tribute to Peking, one set of presents being for the Empress-Dowager and another set for the Emperor. Memorialist has therefore sent the Tibetan official Payar'h Kanpo (Abbot of Payar'h) Kê-ts'ing-lu-pu in charge of the various tribute, who has instructions to enter the Szechuan borders and travel from thence by the Imperial route or grand highway up to Peking. In view of this, memorialist has also notified the Szechuan authorities to provide the necessary beasts of burden to carry the presents upon their arrival at the latter territory. The tribute in question left Lassa on the 15th day of the 9th moon (24th October) under escort of five Chinese troopers and the Abbot above named. The following presents are for H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager from the Buddhist Pope or Dalai Lama:—

- 1 Eulogistic *Tahata* or memorial in Tibetan characters.
- 1 Silver brocaded curtain, picked with variegated silk floss containing Buddhist prayers.
- 1 *Lima* stone God of Longevity.
- 1 *Lima* stone image of the Hearer of Prayers (Kuan Yin).
- 1 *Lima* stone god (ordinary).
- 1 Book of Prayers for Longevity.
- 1 Silver pagoda.
- 1 Gold cup with cover.
- 1 Variegated wood silver-mounted cup, with gilt cover of filigree work.
- 50 Ounces of red flowers (medicinal herb from Cashmere).
- 1 Coral necklace.
- 1 Yellow wax necklace.
- 80 Bundles red and yellow thick Tibetan joss-sticks.
- 30 Bundles fine Tibetan joss-sticks.
- 2 Chests respectively of black and white incense.
- 1 Chest Tibetan dates.
- 1 Chest Chakar walnuts.
- 1 Chest almonds.

40 P'alu (?) coloured and plain.

The following presents are from the same ecclesiastic to H.I.M. the Emperor:—

- 1 Eulogistic *Tahata* or memorial in Tibetan characters.
- 1 *Lima* stone image of the God of Longevity.
- 2 *Shidi* sacred pearls (emitting light from the forehead of Buddha).
- 1 Coral necklace.
- 60 Bundles red and yellow thick joss-sticks.
- 40 Strips of cross-patterned coloured cloth.
- 1 Chest Tibetan dates.
- 1 Chest Chakar walnuts.
- 1 Chest Almonds.

In addition to the above-named presents from the Dalai Lama to their Majesties the Empress-Dowager and Emperor, similar presents in lesser quantities are given by the Lamaist Treasurer of Tibet, the saints (*Hutukt'u*), Mongolian titular dukes and nobles (*Daiji*), lists of which are hereby appended to this memorial.—*Rescript*: *Noted*.

26th November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Yang Wên-tsün is appointed Taotai of the Lui Ch'ung Circuit of Kuangtung (Hainan Island).

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council chamber to Wan I-yung and Li Kuei-lin, Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors of Honan; to Chang Ying-huan, Vice-President of the Board of Revenue; and to Tai Sieh-chün, an expectant Taotai.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Grand Secretary Fu K'un as Commander-in-Chief of the Peking Gendarmerie and the green-turbaned or regular Chinese troops of the capital, gave thanks on their behalf to the Throne for the special act of grace granting half month's extra rations and pay to these troops. The Vice-Presidents Shou Ying, Ch'ang Ling, Ch'ang Tsui, Cheh Jui and Sung An have been appointed to examine the translations from Manchu into Chinese and *vice versa*, made by the candidates of Manchu descent in the various cities of the empire for the degree of *chên* or provincial graduates, *i.e.* *chuei* translators. Wang I-yung and Li Kuei-lin, Chief and Assistant Literary Chancellors respectively of Honan, reported their return to Peking, and humbly asked after the Imperial health.

PRESENTS FROM THE JOINT PONTIFF OF TIBET.

K'uei Huan, Imperial Resident at Laasa, reports that the Panshen Erdeni (Buddhist Joint Pontiff) has asked to be allowed to send tribute in honour of H.L.M. the Empress-Dowager's sixtieth birthday anniversary next year and also the proper tribute usually sent to the Throne on the occasion of his recent enthronement in his present office of Joint Pontiff with the Dalai Lama. Memorialist sent the tribute in charge of Kê-ta'ing-lu-pu, Kanpo or Abbot of Payârñ, on the 24th of October last, together with some presents by the Lamas and Saints peculiarly under the authority of the said Joint Pontiff, all of which were sent on the day named with the presents and tribute of the Dalai Lama, Saints, Mongol titular dukes, and nobles, already mentioned in a previous memorial. The following presents are for the Empress-Dowager:—

1 *Takata* or Eulogistic memorial in Tibetan characters.

1 Silver brocaded curtain picked with variegated silk floss containing Buddhist prayers.

1 Image of the God of Longevity (fully dressed).

1 *Lima* stone image of the Goddess Kuan-yin (Hearer of Prayers) fully dressed.

1 *Lima* stone image of a God, fully dressed.

1 Book of Buddhist prayers for longevity.

1 Gilt silver pagoda.

1 Variegated wood silver-mounted cup, in a silver case.

30 Ounces red flower (medicinal herbs from Kashmir).

1 Coral necklace.

1 Yellow wax necklace.

60 Bundles red and yellow coarse Tibetan joss-sticks.

30 Bundles red and yellow fine Tibetan joss-sticks.

30 Strips of flowered *Pusu* cloth.

1 Chest white incense.

1 Chest Chakar w-lnuts.

1 Chest dried apricots.

The presents sent to the Emperor by the Panshen Erdeni or Joint Pontiff are almost similar to the above, but in lesser quantities, while the tributes from the Lamas and Saints under him are of a still less quantity, lists of which are appended to the present memorial.—*Rescript: Noted.*

THE RESULTS OF THE LATE INUNDATIONS IN CHIHLI PROVINCE.

Li Hung-chang, Grand Secretary, an Earl of the 1st class and Governor-General of Chihli, reports that leaving aside the

forty-one departments and district magistracies in his province which were almost entirely flooded by the recent inundations this year, which formed the subject of a previous memorial at the time, there are besides twenty more departments and district magistracies within his jurisdiction, such as the districts of Ch'ang'ing, L'hsien, etc., which have suffered in a lesser degree. A number have been reported as having suffered one-half, others 40 per cent. and others again from 20 to 30 per cent. These departments and district magistracies memorialist requests should also be allowed to deduct their taxes in proportion to their various states as reported by the officers sent by memorialist to ascertain the result of the devastations last spring and summer.—*Rescript: Noted.*

27th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ing Yü, Military Governor of Jehó, requests that the rice of the Banner troops under him should be bought from traders instead of through government medium. As the welfare of our troops and subjects is our first care, we command that it be done as requested, while on the other hand Ch'ing Yü is commanded to pay careful attention in order that the traders our subjects be not made to suffer by the new régime. The proper Board is also commanded to take note.

(2) We will ourselves go in person to sacrifice at the Temples of Heaven and Earth on the Autumnal Equinox, while Chung Sui, Tê Shou, Lih Jui, and Chao Yü are ordered to sacrifice at the four minor shrines in our stead.

(3) Ts'ien Ch'ing-p'ü, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, is commanded to sacrifice at the Temple of Physic, and Chou Tze-ts'un and Li Ch'ang-tô are ordered to sacrifice at the side shrines.

(4) Sung T'ün, Director-General of Grain Transport, memorialises us that since the first frosts the Grand Canal has not suffered anything; but that on the approach of autumn there was a sudden rise, and but for the watchfulness and care of memorialist and his subordinates, together with the protection of the gods, the banks would have overflowed to the detriment of the crops, whereas now the crops are flourishing and the harvests abundant. We command therefore that fifteen sticks of Tibetan incense be sent to Sung T'ün to be burnt at the temple of the titular guardian of the Canal in token of our thankfulness for the protection accorded to our people by the gods.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ching Sing, President of the Court of Censors, Ch'ang Ling, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, and to Wang Yü-tsoo, Treasurer-designate of Szechuan.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Yü Ling reported his return from his home in the Banner reservation township and humbly asked after the Imperial health. Wang Yü-tsoo, Treasurer-designate of Szechuan, being about to start for his post, asked for the Imperial instructions. Hsi Ching, President of the Board of Revenue, gave thanks for the honour granted to his son by being retained as a secretary in one of the Boards instead of being sent to a provincial post. Shou Ying, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, and colleagues reported the results of their examination of the translations made by the Manchu candidates for the *chujün* degree.

CONTESTING AN ENDOWMENT.

Lí Han-chang, Viceroy of the Two Kuang, reports that the Salt Commissioner of Kuangtung, Jui Kao, who arrived at his post in the fifth moon (June-July) of this year, having reported to him that in accordance with the last bequest of his father Kung Hsüen, he was prepared to hand over some sixty odd *mo* of land belonging to him by right of inheritance, to the endowment fund of the Ching'ai College, in Peking, he, the memorialist, had informed the district magistrate of Wanp'ingh-ien and the Governor of Shünt'ienfu of the said bequest, thinking this simple matter would be finished without delay. Memorialist was surprised, therefore, to receive a despatch from the Governor of Shünt'ienfu (Peking) enclosing the petition of the metropolitan district magistrate of Wanp'inghsien to the effect that when the said magistrate sent over to take charge of the said sixty odd *mo* of land to hold in trust for the Ching'ai college above, there appeared two brothers of the said Salt Commissioner Jui Kao, who declared that this land was not his to give, as they also had a share in the ground by right of inheritance from their mutual father Kung-Hsüen, etc. It is evident therefore to memorialist that the Salt Commissioner Jui Kao has been guilty of illegally giving to charity things that did not solely belong to him in hopes of currying favour for a good name, which is a disgraceful act for one so high in rank.

As the Governor of Shünt'ienfu has asked that the said Jui Kao be sent up to Peking to settle personally the claim of the Ching'ai College by right of the alleged bequest of the late Kung Hsüen, and as memorialist thinks that this is the only way to have matters settled satisfactorily, he, the memorialist, has accordingly ordered the said Jui Kao to give up his post, for the time being, leave being granted him to settle affairs by a journey to the North. Memorialist desires also to state that he has appointed the expectant prefect Chou Fu-ch'ang to act as Salt Commissioner *pro tem.* of Kuang-hing *vice* Jui Kao sent up north.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.*

28th November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let the new born son of Tsai Tsin, noble of the Imperial lineage, ninth in line of descent, be named P'u Mih.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to A Ké-tan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, and Wang Ming-luan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Works.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Ngêh-la-ho-pu, Grand Secretary, etc., asked for five days' leave of absence from Court duties. The Duke of Lan asked for five days' extra leave of absence from Court.

REPAIRING LAMAIST TEMPLES IN FENG' IEN.

Yü Lu, Tartar-General and brevet Governor-General of the province of Fêng'ien (Shingking) reports that the Eastern pagoda and temple attached, as well as the Western pagoda and temple, in the city of Moukden, are sadly in need of repairs, the walls and shrines being for the most part in a state of dilapidation while the images look rusty and forlorn for want of gilt work and burnishing. As these two pagodas and temples will be required for the chanting of Lama prayers and ceremonies in honour of the sixtieth anniversary of H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager's birthday next year (6th November, 1894), the urgency of making the necessary repairs becomes at once apparent. To this end, therefore, memorialist and the Vice-President of the Moukden Board of Works made a personal inspection of the pagodas and temples in question, and in conjunction with certain master workmen formed an estimate of Tls. 5,113, odd, as being required to completely repair the Eastern pagoda and temple, and Tls. 4,863, odd, for the Western pagoda

and adjunct. That is to say, the sum of Tls. 9,977, odd, will be necessary for the purposes in view, which memorialist proposes to pay according to the custom that obtains in Moukden, for government work, one-half of the sum to be paid in copper cash, twenty-five per cent. in silver and twenty-five per cent. in local bank notes. The consent of his Majesty is required and prayed for.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

29th November.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Wên Jui is hereby appointed Brigadier-General of Malanchên and Comptroller-General of the Imperial Household Department.

(2) Ying Lien, Brigadier-General of Malanchên and Comptroller-General of the Imperial Household Department, prays to be allowed to stay in Peking in order to be near his aged parents, whom his duty as a son requires that he should wait upon during the waning years of their lives. Ying Lien's prayer is granted and he is ordered to be prepared to take up some post in the capital, whenever called upon to do so by edict.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Fêng Ming, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Works, and Ch'ing Fu, Vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency or Colonial Office.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Jui, 1st Order, having completed his leave of absence reported his return to Court duties. The Grand Secretary Chang Chih-wan gave thanks on behalf of his fellow provincials for his Majesty's bounty. Tsai Tsin, a noble ninth in line of descent in the Imperial lineage (Chên Kuo Tsiang Chün) gave thanks for the name given to his son by his Majesty. Sung Kuei, President of the Board of Punishments, asked for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Sün Chieh, Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture of Shünt'ienfu, and his colleagues reported the completion of their duties in connection with the recent grace military examinations for the degree of *chujên*. Jui Fu, officer in charge of the Chaolin Imperial mausoleum, being about to depart for his post, asked for the Imperial instructions.

FORCING A WIDOW TO MARRY AND AN ATTEMPT TO BRIBE.

Yü Lu, Tartar-General and Governor-General by brevet of the province of Fêngtien, makes the following report of sentences passed upon certain persons guilty of forcing a widow to marry against her will, of attempting to bribe an official, and of attempting to get money by swindling. According to the evidence adduced at the trial of the persons, it seems that a widow named Wang Kuo-shih belonging to the department of Singming, some time during last year was forced by her deceased husband's brother, Wang Wei-lan, to marry a relation of the latter named Wang Tê-ch'uan, whose wife had recently died. The man Wang Wei-lan declared that he had no intention to obtain the widow's property or obtain money by forcing her to marry but did so because he thought she could not remain chaste in the future, as was proved by the fact that he promised his widowed sister-in-law to Wang Tê-ch'uan on the sole condition that when the marriage had been performed the new husband should simply go to the deceased husband's grave and offer paper-money and sacrifice, as an apology for taking possession of the dead man's wife, and that no money was demanded for Wang Kuo-shih, as is usual in such cases. But the widow Wang Kuo-shih being forced into a cart and driven to Wang Tê-ch'uan's home, refused point blank to go through the marriage ceremony, making a great disturbance and crying for help, insomuch that the husband-elect was afraid to proceed any further and gave her up at once to the woman's brother who came the next day to carry her away. When the widow obtained her release, she went at once to complain at the department magistrate's *yamen* at Singming, while on the other hand, Wang Tsao-shih her mother-in-law, or in other words the mother of the woman's deceased husband, hearing that her living son Wang Wei-lan had been sued by her daughter-in-law on the charge of abduction and forcing a widow to marry against her will, and knowing that the charge was a very serious one, went to the superior Courts at Moukden to complain of her daughter-in-law's conduct. Thus the case was carried up to the personal cognisance of memorialist who deputed a special official to try the case. When all the persons concerned in the said case had assembled at Moukden, it seemed that the old woman Wang Tsao-shih tried to bribe justice into leniency, and to this end invited a man named Chang

Wan-ts'iu, through the innkeeper with whom she was staying at the time, to try and find some influential mandarin to do the job for her son. Curiously enough, the complainant in the first instance, the widow, Wang Kuo-shih, was staying with a cousin named En San, a Manchu clerk (*bikishi*) in the Moukden Board of Rites, and to this clerk, ignorant of what the consequences would be, the man Chang Wan-ts'iu applied; in other words lending a helping hand to the other party. En San, however, it was proved, did not consent at once, but thinking it very amusing, told the joke to his cousin, the widow. But the widow caught at the chance given at once, and told En San to demand Tls. 200, desiring to obtain Wang Wei-lan's money in this way in repayment of an old debt he owed her. En San did as he was told, and when the go-between Chang Wan-ts'iu called again for an answer, En San told him that he could manage to get the prisoner Wang Wei-lan free on payment of Tls. 200. But the old woman Wang Tsao-shih not having this sum at the time with her, obtained a time note from a local bank at so many days' sight, which being given to En San, the latter handed it over to his cousin the widow who hoped to cash the note when it fell due as a repayment of her old debt. That En San did not intend to use the money to bribe the official conducting the case was evident by his giving the cheque to his cousin and meddling no more with it; but when the old woman, mother of the prisoner, found nothing more come out of the thing after payment of the time note, she complained at once to the investigating official, charging En San with swindling her of the money. All the above having been proved by a personal enquiry by memorialist, he sentenced Wang Wei-lan to eighty blows of the bamboo and a banishment of two years and a-half, owing to the fact that although the widow was forced into marriage by him still there were extenuating circumstances. En San, being an official, should have known better and therefore cannot be excused, so for the crime of swindling Tls. 200 from the old woman Wang Tsao-shih, mother of the first prisoner and mother-in-law of the widow, memorialist requests that he be cashiered and then sent to the military post-roads to work out his time, there being extenuating circumstances as the note had not been cashed. The widow comes under the same category and by rights should be beaten 70 blows and banished one year and a-half,

but being a woman, she shall be allowed to commute her sentence by paying a proportionate fine. The old woman, Wang Tsao-shih, for the crime of trying to bribe officials should be beaten 90 blows and banished two years, but being a woman shall be allowed to commute her sentence by paying a sufficient fine. Chang Wan-ts'iu for the crime of being a go-between in trying to find persons to accept his bribe is sentenced to 90 blows and two years' banishment, there being extenuating circumstances as the time note was not cashed, while the innkeeper Chow Chü, although he did not appear in the matter nor accompany Chang Wan-ts'iu to call upon En San, still it was through his means that the old woman Wang Tsao-shih became acquainted with Chang Wan-ts'iu, hence memorialist sentenced the innkeeper to 80 blows of the big bamboo.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments report thereon.*

30th November.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Tü K'uei is hereby appointed Lieutenant-General of the Hanchün Yellow Banner Corps (Chinese Banner troops).

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Yung Kuei, Captain-General of the Mongolian Bordered Yellow Banner Corps, to Wän Jui, newly-appointed Brigadier-General of Malanchün (Great Wall barrier station) and Comptroller-General of the Imperial Household Department, and to Ts'ing Jui, newly-appointed Reader of the Hanlin Imperial Academy of Literature.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Wän Jui, Ts'ing Jui and Chang Jên-fu presented memorials this morning thanking the Throne for their appointments, the first as Brigadier-General of Malanchün and Comptroller-General of the Imperial Household Department, and the latter two as Readers of the Hanlin Academy of Literature. Ying Lien, ex-Brigadier-General of Malanchün, gave thanks for being allowed to stay at Peking to wait on his aged parents. Ch'ung Li, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, has been appointed also Guardian of the Chingyuen Palace Gate. Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order, has been ordered to worship at the Imperial Ancestral Shrine within the Palace precincts on behalf of the Emperor.

ASKING FOR LEAVE.

Yang Ch'ang-tsun, Junior Guardian of the heir-apparent, an officer bearing the

premier button and Governor-General of the Shênkan provinces, states that he has received a despatch from Ch'êng Yü-lin, Imperial Special Chief Literary Chancellor of Kansu, deputed to conduct the recent Grace Examinations for the *chüjên* degree at Lanchow, in which memorialist is requested to ask the Throne for two months' leave of absence on his behalf, now that he has completed the duties required of him at the examinations. The said Ch'êng Yü-lin further states that he desires the leave in order that he might go to the province of Hupeh where his father Ch'eng Ching-k'un is now a district magistrate, and whom he has not seen for some years. As the provinces of Shênsi and Hupeh touch each other on the frontiers and, as there is a water route between Sianfu and Wuchang, Ch'êng Yü-lin, after arrival at Sianfu from Lanchow, intends to take boat and travel southwards without change, the expenses of travel in this connection to be borne by the writer of the despatch himself. As memorialist is of opinion that the said Literary Chancellor having completed his functions at the recent examinations, is free, to all intents and purposes, to do what he lists, there being nothing to hinder him, and as the distance to be travelled is not a long one nor arduous, he takes pleasure in forwarding to the Throne this request for leave of absence, before returning to Peking, especially since it has been asked on filial grounds.—*Rescript: Ch'êng Yü-lin is granted the two months' leave asked for.*

ASKING FOR RESTORATION OF RANK.

Ch'ing Yü, Military Governor of the Jêhò district, reports that he has received a despatch from Yêh Chih-ch'ao, Provincial Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces of Chihli, in which memorialist is asked to pray for his Majesty's grace for the restoration of his former rank to one Yuan I-lieh, formerly Acting-Department Magistrate of P'ingch'uanchow, Chihli, from which he was degraded into a police magistrate, at the instance of the now cashiered K'uei Pin, ex-Military Governor of Jêhò, predecessor of the memorialist, on the ground that the said Yuan I-lieh had been convicted of partiality in trying certain cases that had come under his cognisance while holding the seals of P'ingch'uanchow. According to General Yêh Chih-ch'ao, the said Yuan I-lieh did good service to the government cause during the Chaoyang and Jêhò rebellion in the winter of 1891-2 when it was all-important to his Majesty's troops that they should have a continual supply of commissariat supplies and grain

during their rapid evolutions after the flying rebel columns. The said Yuan I-lieh was attached to the commissariat and grain supply department, and showed commendable energy and zeal in the execution of his duties, for the success of which the said General Yêh requests that a fitting reward should be made, and he thinks that his Majesty could not do better than recognise Yuan I-lieh's zeal for the government by restoring him his former rank as a full expectant *chehsien* of Chihli, especially as the reasons for his former denunciation by the ex-Governor K'uei Pin have not been substantiated, nor have any complaints been made of the said Yuan I-lieh by the inhabitants of P'ingch'uanchow, during his rule there.—*Rescript: Granted.*

1st December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

The Assistant Grand Secretary, Hsü T'ung, the President of the Board of Rites, K'un Kang, and the President of the Grand Court of Revision, Hsü Chih-siang, are appointed examiners of the compositions on military tactics, written by the candidates at the grace examinations for the military degree of *chüjên*.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience in the Grand Council Chamber this morning to K'ò Mên-t'ai, Junior Vice-President of the Board of War, and to Chang Yung-ts'ing, Brigadier-General of Liangchow, Kansu. His Majesty has signified it to be his gracious intention to return to-morrow morning from the Lake Palaces to occupy the palaces within the Forbidden City, during the winter months.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Tsai Ch'i, 3rd Order, asked for five days' and Ming An and Wu Shu-mei asked for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties. Ch'ing Fu, Junior Vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency or Colonial Office asked for ten days' extra leave of absence owing to prolonged indisposition. Tê K'uei gave thanks this morning for his appointment to the Lieutenant-Generalship of the Hanchün or Chinese Yellow Banner troops. Chang Yung-ts'ing, Brigadier-General of Liangchow, Kansu, being about to start for his post asked for the Imperial instructions.

A TAOTAI ASKS TO BE ALLOWED TO RESIGN.

Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Two Kuang provinces, and Kang I, Governor of Kuangtung, jointly report that on the 12th of June last his Majesty was pleased to issue a rescript, allowing Chü

Ts'ai, Taotai of the Lui-ch'ung Circuit, Hainan island, some months' leave in order to consult some physicians with respect to his various ailments, and memorialist also received permission to place the expectant Taotai Chow Ping-hsin as acting incumbent of the post. Since then memorialists have received from the Taotai Chü Ts'ai a petition stating that the respite granted him has done no good to him, dyspepsia and asthma still being in possession of him. Hence he finds himself unable to return to his post; but as the Taotanship of Hainan island is one of the most important posts of Kuang-tung, especially in a strategic and military point of view, he, the petitioner, dares not ask for any further indulgence to the detriment of the duties of that important incumbency. He, therefore, asks to be allowed to resign in order that some stronger and abler officer may take his place. The memorialists consider that the said Chü Ts'ai, being only sixty years of age and still in the prime of life, a longer respite should be given him in order to get well again and give his services once more to his country some future day. They therefore recommend that Chü Ts'ai be allowed to resign and the Throne appoint some one to take his place. In the meanwhile the present acting Taotai Chow Ping-hsin will retain the post until further orders from his Majesty.—*Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

2nd December.

THE COURT.

Owing to his Majesty's removal from the Lake Palaces to-day to the Winter Palace in the Forbidden City, there was no audience held this morning.

REWARDS FOR DESERVING OFFICERS.

Fu Yün, holding the brevet rank of a Board President and Governor of Shan-tung, reports that owing to the continued irruptions of the Yellow River, overflowing a large tract of country, consisting of eight departments and districts bordering this river, in consequence of the distress caused by the annual inundations, most of the people of these districts have been compelled to resort to pillage and violence, in such a manner that it was considered of prime importance to make the people migrate to some spot higher up and free from the incursions of the river. In view of this, therefore, memorialist in conjunction with his colleagues the Treasurer and Judge and Taotais, chose a large tract of vacant country several miles distant from the river-banks and finished building last summer

339 new villages, which they peopled with 33,297 families, brought from 350 villages along the banks of the river which have been almost annually flooded. The following are the districts from which these people have been taken: Lich'eng, Changch'iu, Tsuiyang, Ts'itung, Ts'ingch'ün, Pingchow, P'ut'ai and Litsin, and memorialist is glad to report that the scheme has been very popular amongst these poor distressed people who are effusive in their gratefulness for the Imperial grace. The new villages for the distressed flood sufferers living higher up the Yellow River are on the point of completion also, and a similar exodus of the people from their old quarters is expected to take place next spring. For the arduous work accomplished memorialist requests to forward the names of ten officers who distinguished themselves in the work, for Imperial recognition. As for the President of the Building and Immigration Board, the expectant Taotai Huang Chi, who is also Commissioner of the Famine Relief Board, as the Throne has already recently ordered his name to be recorded in the Grand Council minutes for immediate promotion, memorialist thinks that he cannot under the circumstance ask any extra reward for the present on that officer's behalf.—*Rescript: Noted.*

EARTHQUAKE ON THE SZECH'UAN-TIBETAN BORDERS.

Liu Ping-chang, Governor-General of Szech'uan, reports in a postscript memorial the results of an earthquake of which he got information from Hsu Lien-k'uei, Colonel of the garrison at Fuho, and Tsoo Kung, sub-Prefect of Tachienlu. According to the petition of these officials, an earthquake occurred on the 30th of July last at about 6.30 a.m. at a place called Kêta, on the Tibetan borders and affecting the country within a radius of one hundred miles. There were destroyed on this occasion seven Lama temples, 804 houses belonging to Chinese and Tibetans living in the vicinity, and the Imperial endowed monastery of Huiyuan. The list of casualties consisted of 74 Lamas and 137 Chinese and Tibetans killed and 70 badly injured. With respect to the Imperial endowed Lama monastery of Huiyuan, it seems that it was built in the 7th year of the reign of Yung Ching (1730) by order of the Emperor for the residence of the Dalai Lama or Buddhist Pontiff, Kê-rh-tsang-chia-mu-si, who had been driven from Lhasa at the time by the rebel Changir, and where this Pontiff remained five years, being subsequently reinstated at Lhasa by the

Imperial troops. Since then this monastery has been taken care of by seventy-one Lamas, for whose maintenance in addition to tithes the government grants Tls. 700 a year. From the ruins of this monastery there were dug up by the petitioners nine pure gold images (gifts of the Emperor YungChing), one hundred gilt bronze images, one embroidered sedan chair drapery of Imperial yellow satin, one golden cap of Buddha, one pure gold brocaded pontifical vestment (*Kor-so*), and one Solon horse saddle inlaid with pure gold. With regard to the relief given on the spot from the private purse of the sub-prefect of Tachienlu, memorialist has given in addition government relief consisting of two piculs of rice to each family (total 1,608 piculs) and to every injured person Tls. 5 were given. To the families of the killed, Tls. 3 extra were given (total Tls. 1,397).—*Rescript: Noted. Let the proper yamen also take note.*

3rd December.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Assistant Grand Secretary and President of the Board of Civil Appointments, Lin Shu; to Hwai T'a-pu, President of the Board of Works; and to Chih Yuan, Brigadier of T'aining.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Ngêh-la-ho-pu, Grand Secretary and Comptroller-General of the Board of War, and the Duke of Lan, having completed their leave of absence, reported their return to their duties. Hsü T'ung, Assistant Grand Secretary, and President of the Board of Civil Appointments and his colleagues reported the result of their duties at the recent military examinations for the *chujên* degree. Chih Yuan, Brigadier-General of T'aining, being about to start for his post, asked for the Imperial instructions. Chin Sing has been appointed Superintendent of the Left Wing of the Imperial Clan School. Ch'ung Li, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, has been appointed Inspector of the Banner Troops' drills for the year. The Duke of Kuei asked for ten days' and Prince P'u Lun, 4th Order, ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

THE IMPERIAL BIRTHDAY FUND CONTRIBUTION.

Li Hung-chang, an Earl of the First Class, Senior Grand Secretary of the Wên Hua-tien Throne Hall, Superintendent of Trade for the Northern ports of Tientsin,

Newchwang and Chefoo, Governor-General of Chihli and Director-General of the Ch'anglu salt-fields, reports that in accordance with the precedent afforded by the fact that on a similar occasion during the reign of Ch'ien Lung (eighteenth century) the salt monopolists of the empire showed their loyalty by contributing certain sums to the birthday fund of the then Empress-Dowager, the salt merchants of the Ch'anglu fields under memorialist, according to the Salt Commissioner of Chihli, Chi Pang-chên, also wish to follow the same example with reference to the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the birthday of H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager Tze-hsi Tuan-yu K'ang-yi Chao-yü Chang-ch'êng Shou-kung Ch'ing-hsien, which takes place on the 7th of November this year. In view of this, therefore, and having received the necessary permission, by edict, to do so, the salt monopolists of Ch'anglu desire to contribute to the fund above named the sum of Tls. 100,000, which they hope His Majesty will receive as a token of their loyalty.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note of this.*

4th December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Appointing a number of officials to the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

THE COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ung Li, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue; to Lung Ch'an-lin, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, appointed last autumn to be Chief Imperial Examining Commissioner of the province of Fukien, for the grace examinations for the *chujên* or provincial degree, and Tu Pên-ch'ung, Assistant Imperial Examiner of the same.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Duke of Chi Sung Kuei, President of the Board of Punishments, and Fu Shêng-pu, having completed their leave of absence, reported their return to their duties at Court. Hsü Kêng-shêng, President of the Board of War, asked for five days' extra leave of absence on the ground of prolonged illness. K'ô Mên-t'ai, Junior Vice-President of the Board of War, asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Prince Tsai Ying, 3rd Order, has been appointed to superintend the sacrifices at the Imperial Ancestral Shrine, within the Court precincts, on the 8th instant. The Chief and Assistant Imperial

Examining Commissioners for Fukien, Lung Ch'an-lin and Tu Pên-ch'ung, reported their return to Peking and humbly asked after the Imperial health. Ching Sing, President of the Censorate, and Ch'ung Li, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, gave thanks for their recent appointments.

KIANGSU QUOTA TO THE PEKING GOVERNMENT EXCHEQUER.

K'uei Chün, Governor of Kiangsu, reports that in accordance with instructions from the Board of Revenue on a former occasion, calling upon the Kiangsu government to contribute for the 19th year of his Majesty's reign (1893) the sum of Tls. 100,000 in aid of the exchequer of the government of Peking, memorialist sent the necessary instructions to Nieh Chieh-kuei, Superintendent of the Shanghai Customs, and Taotai of the Su Sung Tai Circuit, to provide the required sum for 1893. These commands have been obeyed by the sending some months ago of Tls. 50,000, which have already been acknowledged by the proper Board. On the present occasion the said Nieh Chieh-kuei having collected a sum of Tls. 50,000 reports that he is now sending it to Peking to the Board of Revenue, and desires that proper note may be made of the same, and also that by this draft he has completed the contribution required of the government of Kiangsu, as already noted above.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN CHEKIANG.

Sung Chün, Governor of Ch'ekiang province, in a postscript memorial reports the following, which has been brought to his notice by the Provincial Treasurer, Liu Shu-t'ang. According to the petition of the prefect of Shaohsingfu, two cousins, gentry of Ch'enghsien, belonging to the said prefecture, named Hsü Shu-lan, an officer holding the brevet button of a Salt Commissioner and a second class Taotai, and Hsü Yu-lan, a first class Secretary belonging to the Hukuang department of the Board of Revenue, both of whom are also decorated with the single-eyed peacock feather, desire to present, in obedience to the commands of their mothers Hsü Ma-shih and Hsü Chang-shih, now deceased, 286 *mu* of land in the said district of Ch'enghsien, and a lot of copper cash, both of which have been valued at Tls. 10,000, to a Board of Trustees, who shall be empowered to use the interest and rents accruing from the same, on behalf of the Infant Foundling Home and Home

for Female Chastity in the said city of Ch'enghsien. The two cousins desire to say also that they are only obeying the commands of their deceased mothers, and hence dare not ask any mark of Imperial approval for a liberality that is not theirs. But memorialist thinks that they are deserving of having their conduct placed on record, especially since it is allowable to do so in any case where a donor or donors collectively contribute Tls. 10,000 to a charitable object.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Rites take note.*

HELPING ONE'S OWN CLAN.

K'uei Chün, Governor of Kiangsu, in a postscript memorial states that he is in receipt of a petition from Chang Li-ch'ien, a first class Secretary belonging to the Shansi Department of the Board of Revenue, and bearing the 3rd brevet button, which runs to the following effect: Petitioner's father Chang Chao-pei, who has since died, had always maintained, while living, the character of a benevolent man, ready to assist the orphan, widow, and truly destitute, especially when it concerned any member of the Chang clan. His ambition was to try and follow the example of the Prime Minister Fan, of ancient time, who inaugurated the practice, for the first time in Chinese history, of buying a large tract of land and portioning it out on the agrarian system, to every member of his clan, especially to the indigent orphans and widows. But he died before he had gone very far, and it now lies as the sacred duty of the petitioner to go on with his father's projects, all the more so as his father gave him this command before death. Hence the petitioner has, as occasion offered, bought the necessary land for agricultural purposes in the metropolitan districts of Ch'ang-chou, Yuanho and Wohsien, belonging to his native city of Soochow, amounting to 2,003 *mu*, 4 *fun* and 5 *li* at an expense of Tls. 18,660, odd, upon which he has built a clan village, costing Tls. 10,200, odd, not including a cremation house for the dead members of the clan, costing Tls. 2,400. Petitioner has also made arrangements to pay in the proceeds of these clan acres—after deducting the government taxes, the expenses of sacrificing to the *manes* of the ancestors of his clan, and the money needed for the sustenance of the clan—on behalf of an extra fund for the orphans, widows, and truly destitute belonging to it. These arrangements, petitioner thinks, are just what his deceased parent would have delighted in and approved

of were he alive, and although such a course has a precedent for the demand of Imperial recognition on behalf of petitioner's father, still he does not venture to ask for such a favour; the only reason for petitioner reporting what he has done to the memorialist being the desire that this agrarian system provided by him for the hereditary use of the Chang clan, might be placed in the records of the Board of Rites, as one to be handed down for ever, and thus prevent any future pretext of the members to override the rules promulgated by him in order to entitle them to a portion of the land in question. As the conduct of this member of the Soochow gentry is worthy to be followed by others, memorialist has granted his request, at the same time instructing the Provincial Treasurer to give the said Chang Lü-ch'ien the necessary papers for him to hold the land on behalf of his clan. Memorialist therefore prays that his Majesty will give the proper instructions relative to the same to the Board of Rites, without asking for any posthumous reward on behalf Chang Chao-pei, the father of Chang Lü-ch'ien.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.*

SOME EXPENDITURE IN 1891-2 ON THE
FOOCHOW ARSENAL.

T'an Chung-lin, Governor-General of the Min-Ché provinces, states that in accordance with the instructions promulgated by the Board of Revenue, on a former occasion, desiring the authorities in charge of the arsenals in the country, as well as the Board of Commissioners belonging to the Foochow Arsenal and Naval Dockyard, to report any intended additional purchase of machinery or renewal in the several departments, and get the consent of the Board first, memorialist having complied with the above new regulations desires now to make a report giving the total amount expended in this direction at the said Arsenal and Dockyard. According to the report of Yang Chen-yi, expectant Taotsi of the first class and President of the Board of Commissioners of the said arsenal, on the 18th day of the 6th intercalary month of 1891, having obtained the consent of the Admiralty Board and the Board of Revenue, there were expended Tls. 20,300, odd, on two compound suction pumps for the docks, and the necessary boilers and furnaces for the same. On the 18th day of the 3rd moon of the same year, the required permission having also been obtained, Tls. 500, odd, were spent on two steel driving wheels belonging to

the steel and copper plate rolling machinery, owing to the old ones being too much worn out by constant use. At the time, the sum of Tls. 5,700, odd, were spent in making three new furnaces out of the original complement of five, in connection with the "cold water" process of the steel foundry. Tls. 3,100, odd, have also been spent in changing or strengthening the wood-work on the slips. Another sum of Tls. 2,600, odd, was spent on the wooden floats, etc., belonging to the steel wharf, for the disembarking of heavy materials and also for repairs made to the steel rails belonging to the tramway running from this steel wharf to the interior of the arsenal. The above named sums having been expended in the years 1891-2, should go into the accounts of the latter year, with regard to which his Majesty's approval is requested for the purpose of being written off in the accounts of the said Board for that year.—*Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

NAVAL EXPENDITURES FOR 1892 AT
FOOCHOW.

Another postscript memorial by the same high official reports that during 1892 at the Foochow Arsenal and Dockyard, in addition to the sums expended for the sloop *Fupo*, already accounted for to the Board of Revenue by the memorialist's predecessor Pien Pao-ti, on a former occasion, the sum of Tls. 1,827 was spent on the same ship for repairing her water tanks; putting on a new funnel, repairing and caulking her bottom, sails, for new fore and mizzen masts, awning, ship boats, and for steel plates for protecting the crew at the guns. For changing the coppering and otherwise repairing the iron and brass-work of the small gunboat *Litsh*, stationed at Amoy, after deducting the proceeds obtained from the sale of her old iron and copper and brass works, an actual disbursement of Tls. 1,418 was made on the said gunboat, at the Foochow Arsenal and Dockyard. Finally, for the making of seventy-seven electric and concussion torpedoes, in the same year (1892) for the use of the Min River Torpedo Corps, together with the expenses in freight and insurance, for the bringing over from Tientsin of the necessary gun-cotton for the torpedoes in question, there was used the sum of Tls. 10,843, odd, which sum has been transferred from the Northern Arsenal to the Foochow Arsenal and Naval accounts.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

FUKIEN CONTRIBUTION TO THE NORTHERN
RAILWAYS FUND.

The same Governor-General, in another postscript memorial, reports that in accordance with instructions received from the Throne commanding the province of Fukien to contribute the sum of Tls. 50,000 for the prosecution of railway enterprise in the North for the year 1893, he is now sending the sum of Tls. 20,000 as a first instalment to Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of Chihli, at Tientsin. As for the balance of Tls. 30,000, memorialist promises to send it as soon as the autumn revenues of the province shall have been collected.—*Rescript: Let the proper yamén take note.*

5th December.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber, to Wu Fêng-chu, Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Hupêh; to Hsü Yu-lin, Prefect of Hupêh; and to K'un Kang, President of the Board of Rites.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Grand Secretary Chang Chih-wan asked for five days' leave of absence from Court duties. Wu Fêng-chu, Provincial Commander-in-chief of Hupêh, reported his arrival at Peking and humbly asked after the Imperial health. In response to the request of the Imperial Clan Court, his Majesty has appointed Nayantu, Mongol Prince of the Khalkas, 1st Order, the Assistant Grand Secretary Lin Shu, Ching Sing, President of the Censorate, and the Vice-President of the Imperial Clan Court, Kuo Lê-min, to form a Committee of Inspection of the peacock feathers and silks and satins, destined for Imperial presents to worthy and deserving ministers of the Court. The Expectant Taotai of Anhui, Sung Chün, and the Hupêh prefect, Hsü Yu-lin, both gave thanks this morning for their new appointments.

No other news of interest.

6th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Governor of the metropolitan prefecture of Shüntienfu has reported to us that he has discovered the existence of a gang of counterfeiters in the capital, who have been engaged for some time past in cutting false seals of the Six Boards and other chief departments of the State, for fraudulent purposes, and that amongst those who have not yet been arrested are the expectant second captain belonging to the Peking garrison, named Tsao Kuang-tsung, and a certain civil official called Li

Hsiang-fu, the latter of whom, however, has fled to parts unknown. In view of the seriousness of the crime and the importance that the affair should be thoroughly sifted for the punishment of the guilty ones, we command that warrants be immediately made out for the arrest of the said Captain Tsao Kuang-tsung, who should be turned over to the Board of Punishments to undergo a searching enquiry. With reference to the said Li Hsiang-fu, who is reported to have fled, we command the Governors of Honan and Chékiang to make strict search after that delinquent who is supposed to have absconded to these provinces one of them being thought to be his native place. Upon Li Hsiang-fu's arrest, he should be sent up to Peking at once for trial and condign punishment, if found guilty.

(2) The Board of Rites have reported to us that the Governor of Formosa, Shao Yü-lien, has followed the commendable example of the ancient Prime Minister, Fan, of olden times, by buying a tract of land for building and agricultural purposes, for the sole benefit of locating members of his clan, who are indigent enough to be in need of aid, and with special reference to the poor widows and orphans of the Shao clan. The said Board, in view of this generous conduct of Shao Yü-lien, which certainly is worthy of emulation, prays that we should commend the benevolence of the said Governor by rewarding him, according to former precedent, with a tablet written by our own hands. We grant this request and now command that the said tablet be sent down to Formosa to Shao Yü-lien to be kept by him as a mark of the Imperial favour.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ang Lin, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, and Junior Provost Marshal of the Peking Gendarmerie; to Sün Chieh, Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture of Shüntienfu; and to Hsü Yung-yi, Senior Vice-President of the Censorate.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Tsai-ch'i, 3rd Order, Sün Chia-nai, President of the Board of Works, Lih Shan, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, and Li Tuan-fên, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, have asked for ten days' extra leave from Court duties. Ya Tê, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, asks for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties. P'u Tung, a noble of the Imperial

lineage, ninth in line of descent, is appointed to proceed to the Imperial mausolea to sacrifice at the annual rites. Hsi Ling-a, Prince of Karachin, 3rd Order, and the Duke of Tsé, have been appointed by the Throne at the instance of the Headquarters of the Imperial Household Guards, to inspect the arrows to be used at the military examinations, and at the instance of the Board of War, the Prince of I, the Assistant Grand Secretary Lin Shu, and Shou Yin, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, have been appointed to inspect the bows, long swords, and stone-weights also to be used at the said examinations. K'è Mèn-t'ai, Junior Vice-President of the Board of War, has been appointed Superintendent of the Imperial Mews, in addition to his other duties.

A REQUEST TO BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN AT PEKING.

Ying Lien, Brigadier-general of Malanchen and *ex officio* a Comptroller of the Imperial Household Department, prays that he may resign from his present post and be allowed to stay at Peking in order to wait upon his mother. The memorialist was appointed in March 1883, to his present post, and by the Imperial favour has been allowed to retain it for ten years. But now since he has obtained one month's leave of absence to return to Peking to pay his aged mother, who is over eighty years of age, a visit, he finds that she is not strong and lithe as she used to be, and now finds it difficult to walk about without assistance. Since his duties have prevented the memorialist for nearly twelve years from waiting upon his aged parent, and now since he feels that he would fail in his filial duties if he were to leave her alone again and return to his post; moreover, memorialist also feels that the years are short whereby he could have his mother by his side and he owes it as his sole duty now to comfort her declining years. In view of this, memorialist prays that His Majesty will grant him this opportunity of fulfilling his filial duties to his only remaining parent, by allowing him to remain at Peking by resigning his post at Malanchén. If His Majesty thinks that his ability is of any account, memorialist is ready to accept and fill any post in the Capital to which the Throne may appoint him.—*Decree already published (29th November.)*

PATROLLING THE KUANGTUNG-FUKIEN SEA COAST.

Liu Yung-fu (Ex Black Flag Chieftain in Tongking) Naval Commodore and Brigadier-

General of Nanao (Namos), Kuangtung, states that on a former occasion a decree was promulgated commanding the Admirals and Commodores on the sea coasts of the maritime provinces to report to the Throne every time they went out to patrol their several maritime districts, giving the dates of their departure and return to headquarters. The military district of Nanao, over which memorialist has command, is situated on the borders lying between the provinces of Kuangtung and Fukien. Hence the memorialist has according to the set regulations, to devote the first six months of each year to patrolling the Kuangtung sea coast and the latter half of the year to the Fukien coast. On the first occasion, after patrolling the Kuangtung coast, memorialist, on returning to headquarters, usually devolves the duty of continuing the patrolling to the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Ch'enghai brigade, Kuangtung. On the next occasion, after the 6th moon, after going over the Fukien coast, this last duty is given on his return to Nanao to the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Tungshun brigade, Fukien. This year having gone over, first the Kuangtung coast, as already reported to the Throne, memorialist has now to report the result of his cruise along the Fukien coast, which he found quiet and comparatively free from pirates. He also gave special instructions, upon leaving for Nanao, to the Lieutenant-Colonel of Tungshan, to exercise great care to keep the coast under his command free from disturbing elements, to show his appreciation of the trust reposed upon him by a magnanimous Sovereign. Memorialist having completed his second cruise of the year, as already noted, along the Fukien coast, in his vicinity, returned to headquarters for the purpose of personally paying attention to the drilling and exercise of his men, whom he makes it a point to see go through their drills and exercises constantly, in order to be ready for emergencies, and show a disciplined front to the enemies of the country. In addition to the memorial which he has been commanded by Edict to present to the Throne twice a year, memorialist has also given detailed accounts of his cruises to the Governor-Generals of both Kuangtung and Fukien.—*Rescript: Noted.*

7th December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

En Lin is appointed Taotai of the Yen-ping Circuit of Shansi.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hsü Hui-li, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works; to Nê Ch'ing, Manchu Brigade-General of Ts'ingchow; and to A K'ê-tan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments. To-morrow morning, after breakfast and the transaction of State business, His Majesty will proceed to pay his usual respects to the Empress Dowager, after which His Majesty returns to his own Palace.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Hsü Hui-li, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works, appointed by special edict Chief Imperial Examiner of the Nanking (Kiangnan) Provincial Examination, for the *chujê* degree, last autumn, reported his arrival from the South after completion of his duties there. Tsai Tsin, Noble of the Imperial Lineage, Ninth in line of descent, and the Duke of A asked for ten days' and Hwai T'a-pu, President of the Board of Works, asked for five days' leave of absence from Court duties. Nê Ch'ing, Manchu Brigade-General of Ts'ingchow, reported his arrival at Peking, and asked after the Imperial health.

ASKING FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO VISIT THEIR HOMES.

T'an Chün-pei, Governor of Yunnan, states he has been asked by Wu Chia-jui and Ch'ên Pêh-t'ao, Hanlin Compilers of the second class, deputed by special Edict to be chief and assistant Imperial examiners for the Provincial competitions for the *chujê* degree in Yunnan, last autumn, to memorialise on their behalf asking for one month's leave to visit their homes in Ch'angsha, Hunan, and Tungkuan, Kuangtung, for the purpose of looking after the graves of their ancestors and their own families. As both these cities may be taken *en route* for Peking, without much deviation from their course, and as their duties of Imperial examiners have now been completed, memorialist prays that the Throne will grant these two Hanlin compilers the leave they have asked for before returning to report at Peking.—*Rescript: Granted.*

8th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

- (1) Kuei Nien is appointed Police Censor for the Western City of the capital.
- (2) P'ang Hung-shu is appointed to the same office for the Eastern City.
- (3) Mêng Chi-hsün is appointed to the same office for the Southern City.

(4) Wang Mêng-kuei is appointed Police Master and Goal Warden of the Police Magistrate's *yamen* in the Northern City.

(5) Hsü Chih-ching is appointed Expositor of the Hanlin Academy.

(6) Li T'ien-lin is transferred to the Left Secretaryship of the Supervisorate of Instruction (for the Heir-Apparent), and Hua Chin-shou is appointed to the Right Secretaryship of the same Department.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Yuan Fêng-lin, Judge-designate of Anhui province, and to Ting Wei-ch'ih and Hsü Chi-ju, Chief and Assistant Special Imperial Examiners, respectively, for the province of Shênssi. His Majesty also granted audience this morning to the Belgian Minister, M. Loumyer, at the Chêngkuang Throne Hall.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Yuan Fên-lin, Provincial Judge-designate of Anhui, being about to depart for his post, asked for the Imperial instructions. The Imperial Special Examiners for Shênssi Ting Wei-ch'ih and Hsü Chi-ju report their arrival at Peking after completing their duties in that province.

WARM CLOTHING FOR BANNER TROOPS.

Tê Min, Military Governor of Ch'ahar, states that the foot battalion of 500 disciplined Bannermen at Chaugchiak'ou (Kalgan), and the squadron of 250 Banner troopers having had no new fur suits since 1890, the memorialist in view of their energy in drilling constantly regardless of heat or cold, thinks that they deserve this winter a new set of sheepskin coats each. To this end, therefore, memorialist asks that Tls. 1,500 from the horse and tea likin at Kalgan be set apart, according to precedent, for the purchase of 750 suits of sheepskin coats, which owing to the severity of the weather, this fine body of troops are in much need of.—*Rescript: Granted.—Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

ASKING THAT A RIVER GOD BE ENTERED INTO THE IMPERIAL PANTHEON.

A postscript memorial by Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, states that the reason of the second breaching of the banks of the Grand Canal at Hungmiao (about 14 miles from Tientsin) the other day, was owing to the devilry of a river god who had concealed himself in the vicinity of that place. His presence was at first reported by the local rustics, and eventually

corroborated by the testimony of all the officers and troops occupied with the task of filling in the breaches there. This river god is reported to have appeared in various guises to the soldiers and their officers while at work and this being told to the Commander-in-Chief and Taotais in charge, on the day of the second successful attempt to fill in the breach, a sacrificial stage was erected in honour of this river god, and offerings made to him, beseeching his kind interposition on behalf of the embankments, coupled with the prayer to remain passive and not to spoil the work completed with such labour and expense. In answer to the prayers of the said Commander-in-Chief and Taotais it is presumed that the river god promised obedience, for on the day in question, the workers were blessed with beautiful serene weather and peaceful calm upon the waters; which it must be confessed was just the contrary before the sacrifices made to this God, the labourers at the Canal being hitherto impeded in their work by boisterous weather, sleet, hard and pouring rains, while the canal itself was one mass of raging waters. Memorialist, therefore, thinks that a fitting recognition should be made by the Throne to this river god, for his interposition on behalf of unimpeded traffic on this Canal and rest and quiet to the people living in the vicinity. His Majesty is therefore requested to bestow a title on this river god of the northern terminus of the Grand Canal, and allow a temple to be built for him there, and entered into the official list of spring and autumn sacrifices by the mandarins of the locality.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Rites report thereon.*

9th December.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ung Li, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue; to Yung Kuei, a member of the Grand or War Council and Captain-General of the Mongolian Bordered Yellow Banner Corps; and to En Lin, Taotai-designate of the Yen'ing Circuit of Shansi.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Hsü K'eng-sheng, President of the Board of War, having completed his leave of absence, reported his return to his duties. Hsü Chih-ching gave thanks for his appointment as Expositor of the Hanlin Academy. Yung-Kuei, member of the Grand or War Council of the Empire, etc., has been appointed also a Grand Chamberlain. En

Lin gave thanks for his appointment as Taotai of the Yen'ing Circuit of Shansi. The Duke of Ch'eng asked for fifteen and the Marquis of Sing ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

No other news of interest.

10th December.

THE COURT.

His Majesty held no audience in the Grand Council Chamber this morning, nor was State business transacted.

ANSWER OF LI HUNG-CHANG TO A PETITION BROUGHT AGAINST HIS SUBORDINATES.

Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of Chihli, states that he has since received an edict sent through the Grand Council dated the 11th of October which ran to the following effect: "At the beginning of this month, Sun Chia-nai, President of the Board of Works, and Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture of Shünt'ienfu, and Sün Chieh, Vice-Governor, made a joint representation to us, stating that the natives of the district magistracies of Wēnan and Tach'eng, Chihli, had made an appeal to the Throne because a number of desperate characters and rowdies belonging to Anchow had forcibly dug into and broken down the former's dykes and embankments, thereby causing much loss of life and damage to property. At the same time another memorial had been presented by Liu En-p'u, Director of the Court of State Ceremonies, complaining of the same thing, on behalf of the people of the said districts. Li Hung-chang is, therefore, commanded to proceed to the spot and make a strict investigation, for the purpose of punishing the culprits to the full extent of the law. He is also commanded to devise regulations by which neighbouring districts shall be prevented from making each other the receptacles of the other's surcharged waters to the detriment of the victims. But that suffering people should rely upon their numbers to present an appearance of unanimity, for the purpose of bringing their complaint to the High Courts of Appeal in the capital (without first going to their immediate superiors, Li Hung-chang and his subordinates, the local magistrates of Chihli) in an irregular manner, Li Hung-chang is commanded to make enquiries to find out whether there has been any attempt at coercion in compelling one another, in the said districts, for the purpose of proceeding in a body to Peking, and if so to punish severely the ringleaders in this appeal, in order to prevent any future attempts in this direction by the cunning and crafty."

With reference to the above decree, memorialist desires to state that during the 6th and 7th moons of the present year (18th July to 9th September, 1893), considerable rains visited the province of Chihli, pouring down ten days at a time. In this way the waters of the Tats'ing-ho, Chulung and Chüma rivers became surcharged, rushing down with great impetuosity into the lower outlying regions which they drain. Again, there was the misfortune of the southern portion of the Yungting River overflowing its banks and emptying its surcharges into the Tats'ing River and its confluents, so that there being no outlet for this extra volume of water, it overflowed the southern dykes and embankments, seeking its level westwards into the Tien marshes. In process of time the waters which had invaded these marshes, rose higher and higher until the rush huts and fields of wheat and grain of the people living along them became inundated and entirely destroyed. On the night of the 22nd of August (11th day of 7th moon) the inhabitants of the Tien marshes gathered in large numbers and proceeded to cut by stealth the "Thousand li Dykes" of Lou-t'i, belonging to the adjacent district magistracy of Jénch'iuhsien. Two cuts were made, and the waters in the marshes finding an outlet, overflowed the dykes in question, and poured with destructive effect into the adjacent districts. Upon receipt of this news memorialist immediately instructed the Taotai of the Ts'ingho Circuit, P'an Chün-té (formerly manager of the Tientsin Arsenal and elder brother of the late Treasurer of Fukien, father of P'an Taotai of the Kiangnan Arsenal) to spare no pains to arrest the perpetrators of this dastardly crime, while at the same time he was ordered to set to at once to fill up the breaches caused by the two cuts in question. After over one month's hard labour, this was accomplished on the 23rd of September (14th day of the 8th moon). But all this time the criminals who had caused the inundation into their adjacent districts were still at large, no arrests having been made. Memorialist then deputed the expectant Taotai, Wei Chieh, to proceed to the spot to assist in this last work. As for the districts belonging to the lower portion of the Tats'ing River, viz.: Wénan and Tach'eng, (the appealing districts), at the very moment of their inundation in which many lives were lost and property destroyed, memorialist immediately ordered the local authorities to stop collecting the taxes of the inundated townships and villages, and had long

ago given them extra relief, in money and food supplies, trying to remedy their pitiable situation by extra kind treatment, so that he thinks that he cannot be accused of the fault of indifference to their sufferings. But that they should collect in bands and crowds to appeal to Peking, is a manifest proof that crafty and treacherous persons have been at work, compelling their neighbours to go with them to create trouble against their immediate superiors. Memorialist has, therefore, ordered the arrest of the leading members, Kung Sieh and others, concerned in the appeal, in order that these men might be sent on to Paotingfu, the capital of the province, for trial, so that the real facts of the case might be brought to light, and they be punished if guilty. As for the province of Chihli, the major part of the country consists of low-lying marsh ground. Whenever the rivers draining the province become swollen, these marshes are sure to be flooded. The common people of the inundated districts become restive and then violate the laws of justice and charity to each other by cutting their dykes, or their neighbours', so that many of their unsuspecting victims lose their lives, and much property is destroyed. Certainly such crimes are not deserving of leniency at the hands of the law. But the whole fault lies with the local authorities. For if they were to exercise more care, more watchfulness in the performance of their duties, and showed more alertness in arresting and severely punishing delinquents guilty of such outrages, it stands to reason that the common people, who are afraid of being punished, would not dare to violate the laws. Hence, as his Majesty's decree commands the memorialist to devise stringent regulations for the purpose of preventing the people from cutting each other's dykes, the remedy really lies with the local authorities. There are two kinds of sentences in the laws and ordinances of the Empire relative to the cutting of dykes; one, in the case of being compelled by necessity and gathering in a body and using coercion and force against a weaker neighbour, and the other, done with *malice prepense*. In the first instance, the sentence is 100 blows of the large bamboo and three years' banishment; in the second 100 blows, as above, and banishment to a distance of 3,000 li. If lives are lost in conflict, in the first instance, the law of fighting to kill is applied; in the second, the guilty ones are punished on the ground of premeditated murder. In the case of resisting by arms

the constituted authorities, for the purpose of cutting into dykes and embankments, and thus ruthlessly compelling an unjustified expenditure of the government money as well as causing harm to the people at large, which becomes a graver offence than those already recited, there is indeed no specified law. But in a case during the 12th year of the reign of Tao Kuang (1832) when certain wicked persons, Ch'en Tuan and others, were found guilty of using force in cutting the government dykes belonging to the 13th military division, of the Southern river, at a place called Lungwo, the culprits were sentenced either to decapitation or strangulation. This of course is the extreme penalty of the law; but offences have various degrees of blackness, and they should be treated as such. The reason for dyke cutting in the province of Chihli, is generally, that the country up-river having become flooded, the people of this tract, seek to remedy their own case by transferring the disaster to their neighbours down the river. This is the general rule. If only, now, the local authorities were more alert in arresting the guilty ones, memorialist is sure that the question would become an easy one to solve, as the remedy lies in this alone. Hence he would ask the sanction of the Throne to allow him to place this offence in the same category of penalties and punishments, as in the case where a country is visited by a band of robbers and the local authorities are given four months at most to capture the depredators. If more than half of the dyke-cutters are arrested and punished according to law, the magistrate of the district is to be exempt from loss of office or denunciation to the Throne. If less than half the number, or the ringleaders are not arrested, then the local authorities, civil and military, are to be first degraded a step, and allowed four months to capture them. If at the expiration of this time no arrests to the number required are made then the local magistrates and military officers are to be removed from office and denounced to the Throne. In former times the local authorities whenever a dykes has been cut, either make an excuse for not arresting the culprits by saying that they were drowned in the act (certainly a pitiable matter), or that the deed had been done under the cover of night, which made identification impossible, etc., etc. But by treating any neglect in arresting the culprits by placing them in the same category as robbers and bandits, the memorialist is sure would brighten up the

authorities and make them more alert, from the Taotai down to the petty magistrate and military officers of the submerged districts.—*Rescript: Let the proper Board report thereon.*

11th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Shu En is appointed Inspector of Affairs relating to the Manchu White Banner.

(2) With reference to the memorial of the President of the Board of War, Wu-lai-ch'ung-a, asking that he be allowed to resign, as he is still ill, although his leave of absence has expired, we command that he be given another two months' leave and be still allowed to keep his post.

(3) With reference to the memorial of the Censor Lin Shao-nien, asking that some new arrangement should be made as to the regulations regarding the examination of theses at the provincial and metropolitan competitions, which are not strict enough and have fallen into neglect, let the Board of Rites report thereon.

(4) Liu Shao-nien is appointed prefect of Chaot'ung, in Yunnan.

(5) For allowing the important criminals Kuo Yü-fu and Chang T'un-hu to escape from prison, let the Governor of Hupeh order the immediate degradation of Chin Cho-yün, the gaol-warden of Kuanghua-hsien, and let him be tried in company with his assistants to find out whether any bribery has been given to cause lack of vigilance. As for the magistrate from whose prisons these criminals escaped, the district magistrate of Kuanghua, Liang P'ei-ying, who has the excuse of being absent on official business at the time the men broke from gaol, let him be given the usual period to effect the capture of the runaways.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Hsueh Yün-sheng, President of the Board of Punishments and to Liao Shou-héng, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince K'ch'ing, 2nd Order, and colleagues, reported the result of their examination of the presents ordered to be given by the Throne. T'ang Chin-ch'ung gave thanks for his appointment as Co-President of the Bureau of the Collected Institutes of the Dynasty. Wên Ch'ih and Wu Shu-min, reported their return to their duties after expiration of their leave of

absence. A K'è-tung-a asked for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties. Wu-la-hsi-ch'ung-a, President of the Board of War, has asked again to be allowed to resign from office.

BORROWING MONEY FOR CHARITY RELIEF.

Lu Ch'uan-lin, Governor of Shên-si, reports that the outlook for this winter and the spring of next year for his province is very bad, owing to the incessant rains of last spring and the drought of the summer. No less than twenty odd districts have been affected by this, so that there have been no harvests for them this year. Memorialist's table is covered with petitions from the distressed districts asking for relief for the poor inhabitants. Moreover, the reserved granaries are now all exhausted, owing to previous drain on them, and although he has called the Provincial Treasurer into consultation, the general poverty of the province compels memorialist to acknowledge that no local sums of money are available for the purpose. Again, the inundations at Peking are such that the memorialist is sure that everything is needed for its own relief, so that he dare not ask for any relief from the government funds in the Capital; but the neighbouring province of Kansu has had pretty good harvests this year, and he proposes, after gaining the consent of the Viceroy at Lanchow, to borrow Tls. 100,000 from the Treasury of that province, to be paid back in instalments when the province of Shên-si shall have recovered from its bad harvests of the past two years.—*Receipt; Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

12th December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

A decree appointing a large number of officials from the fourth rank downwards to the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

THE COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Chang Ying-huan, ex Minister to the United States, etc., now Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue; to Ch'ên Hsiao-fên, Junior Vice-President of the same Board; and to Ch'ung Kuang, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order, and Kêng Ying-pu, Captain-General of the Imperial Household Guards of the Yellow Banner Corps, have been appointed to inspect the

gunpowder made by the Board of Works. The Dukes of Na and En and the Marquis of Ch'êng have asked for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties. Wu-la-hsi-ch'ün-a, President of the Board of War, handed in, through the Grand Council, his memorial thanking the Throne for allowing him two months' extra leave of absence owing to prolonged illness. Huai T'a-pu, President of the Board of Works, and Ch'ing Fu, Junior Vice-President of the Mongolian and Tributary States Superintendency, having completed their leave of absence, reported their return to their duties.

No further news of interest.

13th December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Wu Fêng-chu, Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Hupeh; to Nê Ch'ing, Manchu Brigade-General of Ta'ingchow, Shantung; to Ch'ang Shün, Superintendent of the Mausoleum of the Emperor Shün Chih; and to Chêng Ping-ch'êng, promoted for good conduct, from a Secretary in the Board of Punishments to an expectant Taotai in the provinces.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The newly promoted expectant Taotai of Chihli, Liu Shêng-chiung, and Shêng Hêng, Military Commandant of the garrison of Fuchou (Fêng'ien), both gave thanks for their recent appointments. Nê Ch'ing, and Ch'ang Shün, being both about to return to their posts, asked for the Imperial instructions. The Prince of Shuh, 1st Order, has asked for ten, and the Grand Secretary Fu K'un for five, days' leave of absence from Court duties. Wu Fêng-chu, being about to depart for his new post, asked for the Imperial instructions.

ASKING FOR LEAVE TO PAY A VISIT TO THEIR HOMES.

T'an Chi-hsin, Governor of Hupeh, states that he has been requested by Wu Hung-chia and P'êng Shê, Chief and Assistant Special Imperial Examiners of Hupeh, during the Grace examinations for the *chüên* or provincial degree, to ask the Throne for leave to visit their homes before returning to report on their mission at Peking. They say that they finished their duties on the 9th day of the 9th moon (18th October) and by right should immediately proceed to Peking; but Wu Hung-chia states that he has since received home letters from Kiangsu, to the effect

that his ancestral graves are in a dilapidated state and require repair and looking after, while P'êng Shê, his colleague, not having visited his native town for five years would like to go there for a short time to see his kindred and friends. They, therefore, ask for two months' leave of absence after which they will immediately hasten back to Peking, nor would they dare to loiter on the way.—*Rescript: Granted.*

14th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Ch'ang En is permitted to continue Superintendent of the Huaian Customs, Kiangsu, for another term.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Lin Shao-nien, ex-Censor, now appointed to be prefect of Chaot'ung, Yunnan; to Huai T'a-pu, President of the Board of Works; and to Chin Sing, President of the Censorate. After breakfast and the transaction of State business to-morrow morning His Majesty will proceed to the Palace of H.I.M. the Empress Dowager to pay his periodical visit of enquiry after his Imperial Aunt's health, after which His Majesty returns to the Winter Palace.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

In response to the memorial of the Board of War for the constitution of an Advisory Committee for choosing officers for military posts, His Majesty has appointed Hsi Ching, Li Hung-tsoo and Hsueh Yün-shêng, Presidents of the Boards of Revenue, Rites and Punishments; and Shou Ying, Li Tuan-fên, Chang Ying-hsun, Ch'ung Kuang and Fêng Ming, Vice-Presidents of the Boards of Civil Appointments, Punishments, Revenue, Civil Appointments and Works, respectively. To another memorial by the same Board for the formation of an Inspecting Commission, for the examination as to numbers and quality of the warlike arms and ammunition in store at the said Board, His Majesty has appointed as High Commissioners, the Prince of Chuang, 1st Order, Prince Imu, 4th Order, the Assistant Grand Secretary Liu Shu, Hsi Ching, President of the Board of Revenue, Yung Kuei, Grand Councillor and Captain-General of the Mongolian Bordered Yellow Banner Corps, K'un Kang, President of

the Board of Rites, and Kuo Lâ-min, Consort of the eldest Imperial Princess. In response to the memorial of the Court Department of Sacrificial Worship, Prince Tsai Shu, 3rd Order, has been commanded by His Majesty to proceed on the 20th instant to the ancestral shrines of the Imperial house and sacrifice there in His Majesty's stead.

The Duke of Kuei, K'ò Mên-t'ai, junior Vice-President of the Board of War, and Siang Pu, Supernumerary Lord Chamberlain, have asked for ten days' and the Marquis of Ch'i twenty days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Sün Yü-wên, President of the Board of War, gave thanks on behalf of his fellow provincials for the Imperial grace. Lin Shao-nien, prefect-designate of Chaot'ung, Yunnan, gave thanks for his new promotion from the post of Censor.

A CASE OF DISPUTED IDENTITY.

Wang Wên-shao, Governor-General of the Yun-Kuei provinces, and Sung Fan, Governor of Kueichou, request to be allowed to present the following joint memorial on a question of disputed identification. This is done in obedience to an Imperial Edict, dated the 26th of August last, sent to memorialists through the Supreme or Grand Council of the Empire, which ran as follows:—"The Board of Civil Appointments reports that a man, sent by Wang Wên-shao and Sung Fan, Governor-General and Governor of the Yun-Kuei provinces and Kueichou, respectively, by the name of Tsao Ping-jên, an unclassified expectant district magistrate, presented himself, recently, before the said Board, for the purpose of registration (giving one's ancestors' names to the third generation, his own name, age, place of birth, etc.) and official preferment. A search into the proper records revealed the fact that there was the name of Tsao Ping-jên standing in the books of the Board; but the birth place was set down as "T'singyuanhsien, Chihli province," all other particulars such as personal and official antecedent, etc., being correct, while the Tsao Ping-jên referred to in the memorial declared himself as hailing from K'unminghsien, Yunnan province. Again the names of the immediate ancestors to the third generation of the Tsao Ping-jên of the Board records do not agree with those now presented by the present Tsao Ping-jên etc." As two Tsao Ping-jên claim the same rank, the matter becomes suspicious and complicated, and there is reason to believe that one of the two is a fraudulent

claimant. Wang Wên-shao and Sung Fan are therefore commanded to make strict enquiries about the matter and report to the said Board, forthwith, whether the Tsao Ping-jên, promoted by the former Governor-General of Yun-Kuei, Lao Ch'ungkuang, is really a native of Ts'ingyuanhsien, Chihli, or of K'unminghsien, Yunnan, and they are also to send up for comparison the official antecedents of the man and the names of the ancestors to the third generation.

In reply to the sacred commands, Sung Fan, Governor of Kueichou, desires to state that on receipt of the above edict he immediately made an inspection of the old records in his *yamen*, and finds that the unclassified expectant *cheshien*, Tsao Ping-jên, joined the Kueichou military service, and for services rendered by him, he got promoted to the rank of *cheshien*, the year, month and date, tallying in every respect with the petition of the man, in 1891, when he applied for credentials to present himself at Peking. But as to what place really claims him as a native, Sung Fan has no means of obtaining a correct answer to that question. The foregoing results of his enquiry into the records in the Kueichou gubernatorial *yamen* having been forwarded to the Governor-General, Wang Wên-shao, at Yunnanfu, Yunnan, this last named official desires to state with reference thereto, that he on his part sent Sung Fan's report to the authorities of the Supreme Board of Reorganisation of Yunnan, instructing them to make a careful investigation and give memorialist a speedy and truthful result of their research into the question of identity. The following is the report of Shih Nien-tsu, Treasurer, and T'sên Yü-pao, Judge of Yunnan, as Co-Presidents of the said Board of Reorganisation: The unclassified expectant *cheshien*, Tsao Ping-jên, presented a petition to their Board, in the 10th moon of the 17th year of Kuang Hsü (November, 1891) in which he called himself a native of K'unminghsien, Yunnan. The literary rank he held when first he entered the military service of the Yun-Kuei provinces was that of an "accessory senior licentiate" (附貢生).

From this as a basis, for various services rendered in the army in a clerical capacity, he was promoted by degrees to that of an unclassified expectant district magistrate or *cheshien*. As the writers of the above report found upon investigation that the said Tsao Ping-jên had acted in the usual way and had left nothing uncompleted in the duties of the post he

held in the military service, they granted his request and gave him the necessary credentials to go up to Peking for registration and official preferment at the Board of Civil Appointments. All this is on record in the usual way. The writers of this report having also instructed the clansmen and relations of the said Tsao Ping-jên to produce his pedigree, etc., received the following answer from the senior representatives of the Tsao clan, Tsao Sing-tze and Tsao Chün. They say that their junior clansman Tsao Ping-jên, is really a native of K'unminghsien, Yunnan, and from his own rank of accessory senior licentiate of K'unminghsien, was promoted to the 9th official rank. From this he got his unclassified expectant *cheshien*ship, with the decoration of a plain blue feather. Then for further services rendered during the military operations in Annam, having been present at the taking of the cities of Kuaugwei and Pupa, he got a brevet button of the 5th rank (crystal) and got his "plain blue feather" decoration changed to that of the peacock's. Eventually he assisted in the operations conducted against the insurgent Black Lolos and was present at the capture of the Muk'a stockades with subsequent pacification of the region. For this he obtained posthumous honours for his parents of the 5th rank. The above are, as nearly as possible, the official antecedents of Tsao Ping-jên, so far as the petitioners, Tsao Sing-tze and Tsao Chün, the senior representatives of his clan, living in the capital city of the province (Yunnanfu) can remember, etc. The writers of this report upon comparison with the data in their hands, find the above representations correct, all documents and papers relating thereto, in the possession of the said Tsao Ping-jên, having been taken up to Peking by him. As the promotions the said Tsao Ping-jên sent up to Peking by memorialist, were obtained by him previous to the new arrangements of the Board of Civil Appointments, requiring the personal and official antecedents of candidates going up to Peking for registration, to be written down in the promotion lists of the time and subsequent credentials, memorialist has to acknowledge that he has been rather remiss in not following the new regulations. He hopes, however, that the present memorial will set to rights the claim and identity of his *protégé*. This portion of the memorial has received the signature, also, of Sung Fan in Kueichou.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.*

15th December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to A K'ò-tan and Yü Tè, senior and junior Vice-Presidents, respectively, of the Board of Punishments.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Ch'ing, 2nd Order, Hei Lang-a and Wên Hsi asked for ten days' and the Duke of En five days' leave of absence from Court duties. Prince Tsai I, 3rd Order, asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Sün Chia-nai, President of the Board of Works and Yü Tè, junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, reported their return to their duties having completed their leave of absence.

No other news of interest.

16th December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

There having been a dispute amongst several departments in charge of the different mausolea of the dynasty as to who should have special responsibility over the trees planted there, and as the Board of War has not been able to decide upon the question itself, we are of the opinion that not only are the secretaries of the Imperial Household Department stationed at the Imperial mausolea responsible for the cultivation and care of the trees and forests planted around the tombs, but since there are innumerable guard-houses tenanted by the troops of the eight Banners detailed to guard the various mausolea, it stands to reason that these guards should be responsible for their welfare also. From this time henceforth, therefore, it is our desire that the Imperial Household Department shall in future have special charge of the forests and trees planted about the various mausolea while the officers in charge of the detachments of the eight Banners on duty there shall also take turns in taking care of these trees, and that the care-takers of the forest and soldiers on guard shall take their orders from the former. Let no one, therefore, attempt to shift the burden of responsibility upon the shoulders of others, after the issue of this decree. These commands shall stand in perpetuity.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Wang Ming-luan, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works, to Yang Fa-kuei, expectant Brigadier-General, and Fu-erh-sün-pu,

Quartermaster-General of the Heilung-chiang Commissariat Department.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order, and his colleagues, reported the result of their inspection of the ammunition and warlike stores at the Board of War. P'u T'ung, Imperial noble, ninth in line of descent of the Imperial lineage, reported his return from inspecting the Kuanling mausoleum. Lih Shan, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from his duties. Fu-erh-sün-pu, Quartermaster-General of the Heilungchiang Commissariat Department reported his arrival at Peking.

TAKING OVER THE SEALS.

Chang Ch'i-kuang, Brigadier-General, by special appointment to the Wênchow, Chêkiang, command, humbly begs to report the date of his taking over the seals of his post. Memorialist remembers with gratitude the Imperial gracé bestowed upon him when he had the honour of being granted an audience with the Throne, in obedience to the Imperial commands to present himself at Peking, before going to Wênchow, and he does not forget the special distinction accorded him of being allowed two opportunities of gazing on the sacred countenance, and the instructions given him. Having been given permission at the time to proceed to his post, memorialist immediately started south and took *en route* Hangchow and Ningpo where he had interviews with the Governor of the province in the first city and the Provincial Commander-in-Chief in the latter city. Memorialist then went on to Wênchow and there took over the seals of his new post, from his predecessor Chow Chên-pang, (transferred to the Pescadores,) on the 11th day of the 10th moon. (18th November, 1893.)—*Rescript: Noted.*

17th December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Assistant Grand Secretary and President of the Board of Civil Appointments, Lin Shu, and to En Yu, Captain-General of the Mongolian Bordered Blue Banner corps.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Prince Kung, Imperial lineage of the senior branch, gave thanks for his Majesty's gift of silks and satins. Tsai Tsün, noble of the imperial lineage, ninth in line of descent, asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. In response to

the memorial of the Office of Court Worship and Sacrifice, to appoint deputies to worship at the Ancestral Temple of the Imperial House, on the 21st and 22nd instant, his Majesty has appointed the Dukes of Tsâ and Lan, respectively, to worship on his Majesty's behalf.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREVENTING FRAUD AT THE LITERARY EXAMINATIONS AT PEKING.

Lin Shao-nien, Censor of the Metropolitan Department, begs to denounce the high Ministers of State, usually appointed by the Throne to examine theses and confer degrees at the *chujên* and *chînshûh* examinations held in the capital, for culpable practices in giving secret aid and countenance to their *protégés*. Memorialist begs to direct his Majesty's attention also, to the fraudulent practices which in recent times have become more and more frequent during the said examinations, and he thinks that the only way to stop such practices is to go to the fountain-head and devise a new programme for the examination of theses, etc. It has been reported at the capital that the metropolitan official, Chow Fu-ts'ing, who was arrested at Chêkiang the other day for attempting to bribe with \$10,000 the Chief Imperial Examiner of Chêkiang while passing through Soochow *en route* for Hangchow, declared in his evidence before the Governor and high authorities of that province that this was not the first time that he had done so, and that the number of graduates who had obtained their degrees by fraud and partiality of the examiners was simply legion. Memorialist is not in the least surprised at this declaration, in view of the facts that he has discovered relative to the practices now in vogue among the high State officers appointed by the Throne to act as examiners. These persons are the root of the whole mischief. For instance, it has become the fashion to consider the man amongst themselves who has received the largest number of eulogistic poems and paeans of praise in prose and verse from *chujên* and *chînshûh*, who are about to undergo their "finals" at the Palace, as the most popular amongst the *litterati* of the provinces. These papers in poetry and prose are composed and signed by the writers, who audaciously present them in person at the doors of the special examiners appointed to look over their examination papers, and the former, as a rule, are granted audiences, where the necessary arrangements for success could easily be arranged at between them. So fashionable has it become to flaunt these poems and

prose writings of fulsome adulation in the faces of their rivals, that the high officials are known to seek eagerly for them instead of denouncing to the Throne this tampering with their honour as they should have done. Moreover, those who are aware of such things, afraid to incur the displeasure of such high and powerful dignitaries of the State, although victims of the practice, dare not expose the reason to their friends who may be able to bring the notice of the Throne to it. Hence the practice becomes day by day more frequent, so that it has become to be considered an established custom, without any apparent means of stopping such a shameful fashion. It is, therefore, the humble opinion of memorialist that the way to purify the atmosphere in this direction, which it is his Majesty's desire to do, is to go to the fountain-head by devising new regulations about the examination of theses at these competitors. The ancient usage was to order the Imperial Commissioners selected to examine the theses in question to proceed in a body to the Wênhuatien Throne Hall, twenty-four hours before the examinations, and sleep there, so that they might be away from any influences of a private nature. The papers come to them the next morning. Memorialist would therefore suggest that the examiners should be suddenly appointed on the day of the competitions—and not a few days' beforehand, as is now the custom when they have plenty of time given them to do whatever they like—and then be ordered immediately to proceed to the Wênhuatien Throne Hall, where they are to remain the whole time until their work shall be finished. It may be objected that the High Commissioners so selected have their duties in the various State departments and Boards which command their daily attention. This could be obviated by appointing a lesser number of examiners—there being duplicate Presidents and Vice-Presidents in every Board—and a longer time being given them to look over the theses; and this will have the additional advantage of preventing the hasty and cursory examination which obtains at the present day. His Majesty's consent is asked, and also that the proper Board (Rites) may report favourably on these suggestions. —*Rescript: Read. Decree already published* (11th inst.)

As an answer from the high dignitaries of the Court whom the accusing Censor, Lin Shao-nien, has so unmercifully denounced, *vide* the edict issued the day following the one commanding the Board of Rites to report thereon. Lin Shao-nien is

forthwith sent away from Peking—by being appointed to be a Prefect in such a far distant province as Yunnan—in other words, he has been ostensibly promoted a couple of steps, but really degraded. Moreover, this appointment makes him a subordinate officer in the provinces, whereas, as a Censor, he is an equal to the highest official at Peking, and from Censor he could easily gain promotion in the metropolitan curriculum, which would bring him up to a Vice-Presidency of some Board in a few years, or like Chang Chih-tung to a Governorship. Once sent to the province in this subordinate position Lin Shao-nien will find it next to impossible to get back to a post in Peking again—at least not for many years to come.—*Note by Translator.*

18th December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted this morning audience in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ing Fu, Junior Vice-President of the Mongolian and Tibetan Superintendency, and to Chang Ying-huan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Duke of Ab, the Marquis of Sing, and the Grand Secretary, Fu K'un, have asked for ten days' extra leave, and the Dukes of Chi and En and the Marquis of Ying for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties. Huang Chao-hsiung, newly promoted to the rank of expectant Provincial Commander-in-Chief, gave thanks for the Imperial grace.

No other news of interest.

19th December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ang Ling, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, and to Hsü Yung-yi, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning at 6.30 o'clock to the T'aiho Throne Hall to grant general audience to minor officials from the provinces, after which his Majesty will retire at 10 o'clock to the "Fasting Palace" to prepare for the subsequent sacrificial ceremonies.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

At the instance of the Board of Civil Appointments, his Majesty has appointed the Assistant Grand Secretary Lin Shu, Junior Vice-President of the Board of

Works, Hsü Hui-li, and Hsü Chih-siang, President of the Grand Court of Revision, to examine the sons of deceased officials of the 1st and 2nd ranks, of Chinese descent, as to proficiency in literary studies, for the purpose of being given appointments in order of merit. The Duke of Pao asked for five days', and the consort of the Eighth Imperial Princess, ten days' leave of absence from Court duties.

HALF-YEARLY REPORT OF LIST OF ADJUDGED SUITS IN HUNAN.

Wu Ta-ch'eng, Governor of Hunan, states that there is a custom in Hunan of making the various prefects, sub-prefects, department and district magistrates of the province, send up to the Provincial Judge each a list of cases that have come under their adjudication, as well as such as have been brought on appeal to the superior courts. This is done half-yearly and the result reported to the Throne, while it also has the object of giving the high authorities of the province an opportunity of discriminating between the energetic and the lazy amongst these officers. According to the report, in this instance, of the Provincial Judge, Wang Lien, there were adjudicated in Hunan province during the half-year commencing from the "opening of the seals" in the 1st moon of this year and ending the last day of the 6th moon, no less than 4,398 cases in all, which memorialist now begs to report to the Throne.—*Rescript: Noted.*

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPERIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FUND.

Fu Yün, Governor of Shantung, states that while he and his colleagues and the Taotais and prefects and military officers of the 1st and 2nd ranks in Shantung have already obeyed the Imperial mandate (at the instance of the High Commissioners of the Imperial Birthday Celebration Committee), by contributing loyally to the fund opened for the various provincial administrations, he also finds that, according to the precedent given during similar celebrations in the reign of Ch'ien Lung, that the Viceroy and Governors of provinces and their subordinates, may, if they so desire, send to Peking an additional contribution of Tls. 30,000 each, for decorating the streets through which the triumphal progress of the Imperial Court will have to pass. Memorialist in view of this now asks to be allowed to make this additional contribution, from sums given by himself, his colleagues, the Brigadier-Generals, Taotais and prefects of his province, as a further token of the

loyalty of his Majesty's servants:—*Re-script: Let Fu Yüa and his subordinates be allowed to make the above contribution and let the proper gaméu take note.*

20th December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

An edict appointing a number of officials to the metropolitan and provincial administrations.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

To-morrow morning at 4 o'clock, sharp, his Majesty will perform the ceremonial sacrifices at the Temples of Heaven and Earth, after which his Majesty will return to the Palace to transact State affairs and grant audience to the high Ministers of the Court. Upon conclusion of the above, his Majesty intends to proceed to make his usual enquiries after the health of the Empress-Dowager, and then return to his own Palace.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Grand Assistant-Secretary Lin Shu and colleagues reported the result of their examination of the eldest sons of deceased officers of merit, in obedience to the Imperial commands. The Grand Secretary Chang Chih-wan asked for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

A DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES.

Ch'ing Yü, Military Governor of Jêho, reports that he has received a request from the Prince of Aohan, 4th Order, to report to the Throne the following circumstance and ask for its consent. Before the insurrection in the winter of 1892, when the rebels of Chaoyang almost decimated the Mongols, the country round about was quite thickly populated, and Chinese and Mongols lived together in amity and friendship. According to the old régime, the Aohan league of Mongols was governed by two princes of the 1st Order and one of the 4th Order, one Prince holding the position of *Djassack* or supreme Leader, while the other two acted as his assistants. So long as the people mixed together, M-ngols and Chinese, there was no trouble in looking after their interests collectively. But since the Chaoyang rebellion, Mongols and Chinese hold each other in suspicion and dread, and on account of the sparseness of the Mongols scattered about, it is a difficult matter to look after them. The Prince of the 4th Order therefore suggests that the Mongols of Aohan should be separated into their several Banners, and the three Princes having authority over them divide their jurisdiction amongst them. Thus each Prince will have his

special Banners to take care of, and they should all try their best to bring about the old amity and friendship, which is now wanting between the Mongols of Aohan and the Chinese immigrants who have settled amongst them. Memorialist endorses this suggestion of the Aohan *Prinze*, or Prince of Aohan, 4th Order, and requests his Majesty's sanction to a division of the present league.—*Re-script: Let the Mongolian Superintendency report thereon.*

21st December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

Owing to his Majesty's being occupied all the morning with sacrificial worship, there were no audiences granted in the Grand Council Chamber to-day.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Sung Ch'ung and Lien Hua returned thanks for their appointments as Senior and Junior Sub-Directors of the Board of Astronomy, respectively. Wang Fêng and other newly-appointed Taotais and prefects also returned thanks for the Imperial grace. A-k'ê-tung-a asked for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

SENTENCES FOR ORGANISING A STRIKE.

Ch'ang Shün, Tartar General of Kirin (Central Manchuria), begs to report a strike organised by certain merchants of Ch'angtsüfu, Kirin, and the sentences imposed upon the guilty persons, together with the sentence given in the case where a collector of revenue attempted to overawe the officiating magistrate into submitting to the demands of the merchants in question. In former times the collection of likin upon goods entering the prefecture of Ch'angtsüfu was farmed out to a syndicate of merchants trading there; but owing to the discovery of certain defects in the system, from which the government sustained great losses in revenue, it was decided by memorialist to send deputies to Ch'angtsüfu and establish a bureau in that city, for the purpose of collecting likin, instead of farming the revenue to the merchants. This inauguration of a new system gave great offence to the syndicates, of which there were two, who had somewhat similar functions in the collection of likin in that prefecture. The consequence was that when notice was given to the syndicates by the magistrate of the town that on a certain day the government would commence collecting likin itself, the heads of the syndicates arranged to close their doors to trade on that very day and organise a general strike of all the merchants and traders of the city. The place of

meeting of the greater syndicate was the temple of the tutelary god of the city (*Ch'ing Hsing Miao*.) and the men most active in fomenting public opinion against the constituted authorities were Li Lu-yung, manager of the Kuang Shün pawn-broking shop. Ssao T'ien-shêng, manager of the Yung Chü wholesale grocery store, Ch'ü Tze-an, official likin receiver, and a few others. Li Lu-yung having called together the members of the greater syndicate, declared that they should all be unanimous in going on strike, and to this end demanded that all the traders of the city should sign a document protesting against the government being its own likin collector, and threatening that if the latter should persist in the new system, the moment the memorialist's deputies should hang up the government likin bureau signboard, they would close their doors and not resume trade until the objectionable bureau had been removed from the prefecture. Li Lu-yung then offered to go up to Peking and appeal on behalf of the merchants of Ch'ang-t'ünfu, if the local authorities offered to do things with a high hand, but that to bind all together they should sign some document. Acting on these suggestions therefore, over four hundred and seventy shops stamped a paper with their chops, which Li Lu-yung gave to the charge of the secretary of the greater syndicate, — the smaller syndicate being but a branch of the former and following its lead of course in everything. It was even suggested that an oath should be extracted from everyone of the traders in the city, but this last was not eventually insisted upon. The official likin receiver Ch'ü Tze-an, having accepted a large bribe from these two syndicates, tried to use his influence with the local officials, and finally resorted to threats in order to coerce the prefect and district magistrate to recommend the abolition of the proposed likin bureau; but the latter remained firm and on the 9th of January last gave orders for the hanging up of the signboard of the bureau, notice being given that from that day forward likin would have to be paid into the bureau instead of as formerly to the greater and smaller syndicates. On the next day (10th January) all the shops closed their doors according to previous agreement. No rioting, however, occurred, everything being done in an orderly manner. The local officials did their best to persuade the merchants of the city to resume business, but being coerced by the syndicates none dared to obey their mandarins. Memorialist being communicated with gave imme-

diat's orders for the arrest of the ringleaders. In the meanwhile, five days after the strike, a large number of traders, thinking they had gone far enough, met at another temple for the purpose of arranging about resuming business, but the above-named T'sao T'ien-shêng and a man named Tso Lu-chin, also a manager of a large shop, came upon the scene and prevented the step. When orders came from memorialist for the arrest of the ringleaders some ten in number, Li Lu-yung and two others succeeded in making their escape, ostensibly to proceed to Peking to appeal to the Throne, but they have not been heard of since, although warrants are out for their arrest. The men arrested so far, T'sao T'ien-shêng, Ch'ü Tze-an, and several others, have been sent to memorialist for personal enquiry, and they having confessed their implication in organising a strike against constituted authority, memorialist has accordingly imposed the following sentences on the culprits:—According to the law where subjects of the Crown have used their influence in gathering a crowd to oppose the constituted authorities with violence and not in a passive manner, the sentence is death by strangulation. In the case where a government official has been guilty of attempting to coerce a superior by threats the sentence is a hundred blows of the bamboo and banishment. But there must be a difference made in the sentences imposed upon the leaders and those who merely followed their lead voluntarily or otherwise. In this case, the leaders were Wang Ch'ü-fu, Liu Hui-wu and Li Lu-yung — the last-named being still at large. These having been guilty of organising a strike and passively opposing the officials, are sentenced to one hundred blows and three years' banishment, while T'sao T'ien-shêng and others, being only their followers and instruments, have been sentenced to 100 blows and banishment to 3,000 *li*. The official likin receiver Ch'ü Tze-an being an official himself should know the laws, hence for attempting to coerce his superiors, he is to be banished for life to some unhealthy place in Kwangtung or Yunnan.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments report thereon.*

22nd December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to the Assistant Grand Secretary and President of the Board of Civil Appointments, Lin Shu, and to Chin Sing, President of the Censorate.

HEAVIER SENTENCE ASKED FOR IN THE
CASE OF THE LIKIN RECEIVER CONCERNED
IN THE TRADERS' STRIKE AT KIRIN.

Ch'ang Shün, Tartar-General of Kirin, in a postscript memorial states that the official likin receiver of Ch'angts'ünfu, named Ch'ü Tze-an, whom in a prior memorial he had sentenced to banishment to some inhospitable region in Kuangtung or Yun-nan for accepting a large bribe from the striking traders of that city, and using his influence over the local officials and exercising threatening language to the latter in order to get their aid in preventing government from establishing a likin bureau in the city of Ch'angts'ünfu, has since been found to have been guilty of much graver faults. In other words, the Brigade Commander of that district has sent memorialist secret information that the culprit indeed knew from the very beginning everything about the intended strike amongst the merchants and traders of his town, in fact, he has been accused of being the prime mover and adviser of the merchants, telling them what to do and how to coerce the officials. Ch'ü Tze-an upon re-examination has, however, strenuously denied all this, and claims that he became acquainted with the movement of the traders only when the strike actually began, and that tempted by the large bribes offered him, he endeavoured to use his best efforts to help the traders, for which he greatly repents, etc. But although memorialist has no evidence to the contrary, the fact has been proved that on a former occasion when the country people of the same city tried to resist the constituted authorities, this same receiver was their chief adviser in the event. Hence it may be safely inferred that in this special instance Ch'ü Tze-an was only doing a thing he had been accustomed to. For these cogent reasons memorialist considers that the said official likin receiver should have his first sentence of banishment changed into that of death by strangulation at the autumn assizes.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments report thereon.*

SENTENCES NOT TO BE COMMUTED.

The same high official in another postscript memorial asks that considering the deceit and cunning of the ringleaders of the merchants and traders who struck recently at Ch'angts'ünfu, in order to prevent Government from collecting likin by its own deputies, the customary Act of Mercy that will be issued by the Throne in commemoration of the Empress Dowager's

birthday next November, may not affect these men, and that they be made to expiate their faults, without hope of commutation for which ordinary criminals have the right to ask.—*Rescript: Referred to the proper Board for consideration.*

23rd December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

We feel grieved to hear of the death of Mien Hsün, Prince of the 4th Order, who has for many years filled important offices at Court. The Imperial Noble Tsai Tsé is therefore commanded to carry from us the silk coverlet embroidered with Buddhist prayers to be placed over the deceased Prince's corpse, and the former is also to pour libations before the coffin on our behalf. We also command Tia. 500 from the privy purse be given to his family for funeral expenses and that all faults of his be erased from the records. As for the rest, let the Board of Rites provide the usual ceremonial rites customary for persons of the deceased Prince's rank and former offices.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to A-k'ê-tai, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, and to Shou Ch'ang.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Pu Lun, Prince of the 4th Order, the Marquis of Ch'ng, and Mingan, having completed their leave of absence reported their return to Court duties. Huo T'apu, President of the Board of Works, asked for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties. The Dukes of Na and En asked for five days' extra leave of absence.

No other news of interest.

24th December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Ts'ui Kuo-yin is appointed Senior, and Li Pei-yuan Junior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction of the Heir-apparent. [Ts'ui Kuo-yin was Chinese Minister to the United States and the immediate predecessor of Yang Ju (ex Taotai of Wuhu) the present Chinese Minister at Washington.—*Note by Translator.*]

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ying Nien, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works, and to Sün Chieh, Governor of the Metropolitan prefecture of Shüntien-fu.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Princes of Jui and I, 1st Order, reported their return from the Eastern and Western Imperial mausolea. The Prince of Siao and Lau Ling asked for ten days' extra leave of absence. The Marquis of Yen and the Earl of Chao asked for ten days' leave of absence from Court duties. In reference to the memorial of the Board of Works, His Majesty has appointed Fêng Ming Senior, and Hsü Hui-li Junior, Vice-Presidents of the same Board to examine the annual repairs made to the Eastern and Western Imperial mausolea, while Chên Hsiao-fên, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, and Ching Shan of the Board of Rites have been appointed to report on the special works made on the same buildings. The Duke of Kuei and An Ch'ing-a asked for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties respectively.

SZECHUAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE KANSU MILITARY EXCHEQUER.

Liu Ping-chang, Governor-General of Szechuan, requests the Throne to take cognisance of the last instalment of Tls. 140,000 due by his province out of a contribution of Tls. 980,000, ordered by the Throne to be paid to the provinces of Kansu and the New Dominion, in aid of their military expenses. Memorialist had been commanded to send the above-named contribution in six instalments; three in the latter part of 1892 and the remaining three not later than the month of October, 1893. As a matter of fact, owing to pressure from Peking, there was no money from the proper source available for the purpose of making up the necessary amount to send to the Kansu and Chinese Turkestan governments; but as the money is urgently needed for the subsistence of the troops of these two provinces, it became a matter of special importance to send the required sum within the specified time. Hence, according to Wên Kuang, the acting Provincial Treasurer, the last instalment was made up from the following sources:—

	Tls.
Salt revenue.....	40,000
Tea likin	31,000
Ordinary Customs dues for 1893 ...	60,000
Likin on local produce	9,000

Tls. 140,000

This sum has been handed over to the native bank of Hsieh T'ung-ch'ing in Chêngtu for immediate transmission to Lanchowfu, the capital of Kansu, and orders given that the money shall be delivered into the hands of the Governor-

General in the latter city by the end of December of the present year.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.*

25th December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Ho Ming-liang is hereby appointed Brigadier-General of the Nanho Military District of Kiangsi province.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Kung Chao-yuan, Minister-designate to Great Britain, France, Belgium and Italy, and to the Chief and Assistant Special High Literary Examiners of the province of Chêkiang during the recent grace examinations, Ying Ju-chang and Chou Sieh-ên.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Li Pei-yuan gave thanks for his appointment as Junior Sub-Director of the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir-Apparent. The Prince of Ch'ing, 2nd Order, asked for five days' and the Dukes of Pao and Ch'êng for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Prince Tsai I, 3rd Order, reported his return to his duties after expiration of leave of absence. Ying Ju-chang and Chou Sieh-ên, Chief and Assistant Special High Literary Examiners for Chêkiang province, reported their return to Peking after completion of their duties at Hangchow, and humbly enquired after the Imperial health of the Empress-Dowager and Emperor. Kung Chao-yuan, Ex-Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan and Minister-designate to Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium, being about to depart for the South asked for the Imperial instructions.

THE YUNGTING RIVER.

A long memorial by Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, asking for rewards to be given to officers (military and civil) for services rendered in filling up the gaps in the Yungting river embankments, occupies the whole of this day's *Gazette*.

26th December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Ch'ung Li, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, and to Hsi Ying-k'uei, Chinese Comptroller-General of the Imperial Granaries at T'ungchow, near Peking.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Chang Chih-wan, Grand Secretary of the Wényuan Throne-hall and Comptroller-General of the Board of Civil Appointments, and the Chamberlains Wen Hai and Hai Lang-a reported return to their duties on completion of their leave of absence.

[There are Comptrollers-General to each of the six Boards in Peking who stand above the Presidents of these Boards. The posts are generally held by the Grand Secretaries. — *Note by Translator.*]

BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF THE GRAND CANAL.

Sung Ts'un, Director-General of the Grand Canal, states that in 1868 an edict was promulgated by the Throne in answer to a memorial of the then incumbent of memorialist's post, Chang Chih-wan, requiring the Director-General of the Grand Canal to report once in every two years upon the condition of the southern portion of the Canal, and if everything were favourable permission was given to recommend to the notice of the Throne such officials in charge of Canal works as were deserving of promotion, on the same lines as that of the conservancy of the eastern portion of the said Canal. But, owing to a habit of indiscriminate on the part of memorialist's predecessors, a circular note from the Board of Civil Appointments in 1885, by command of the Throne, ordered that for the future no officials belonging to other departments or members of the local gentry who had nothing to do with Canal works were permitted to be recommended for promotion in this connection, and that only twenty of the most deserving of the officials belonging to the Canal were allowed to be recommended for promotion in these biennial reports, etc. In humble obedience to these Imperial commands, memorialist now begs first to give a general report on the condition of the southern portion of the Grand Canal. Thanks to a beneficent Providence, although in 1891-2 the autumnal freshets were very strong and the rapid rising of the adjacent rivers and lakes threatened to destroy the stone embankments of the Canal for a distance of several hundred li, the officials in charge thereof, disregarding personal safety or comfort during periods of storm and rain, stuck manfully to their posts and by perpetual vigilance and praiseworthy energy succeeded in guarding the Canal so that for the period under review memorialist has to report a time of unexampled prosperity and calm with reference to this

portion of the Grand Canal. This happy condition of affairs is of course mainly due to the efficiency of the staff and for this reason memorialist thinks that they are in every way deserving of the promotion which is their due for the work they have done during the past two years. He therefore asks permission to present the names of the required twenty military and civil officers, which he asks the Throne to consider favourably. — *Receipt: Let the proper Yamén consider the matter and report thereon.*

No other news of interest.

27th December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Huang Shao-ti, Chief Special High Examiner for the grace examinations in Hunan, and to Liao Shou-hêng and Ch'ung Kuang, Chinese and Manchu Junior Vice-Presidents of the Board of Civil Appointments.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Duke of En and Tsai Tsain, noble of Imperial lineage, ninth in line of descent, report their return to Court duty after expiration of leave of absence. Huang Shao-ti, special High Examiner to Hunan, reported his return to Peking after completion of his duties at Changsha, capital of that province. His Majesty has appointed Lih Shan, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, to control the police department within the "Forbidden City" for the ensuing year. (1894.)

HONORARY DEGREES ASKED FOR ON BEHALF OF OCTOGENARIAN LICENTIATES.

Sung Fan, an officer bearing the premier button, and Governor of Kueichow, states that during the recent grace examinations for the *chujên* degree held at Kueiyang, there were two octogenarian licentiates named T'ien Shiu-ch'êng and Wang Chih-ch'êng who went through the whole of the required examination, and who have been attending every provincial examinations for the past fifty or sixty years without being able to get their *chujên* degrees. As the present instance is in connection with the grace examinations, and as there is also the precedent of conferring honorary degrees on unsuccessful licentiates who shall have attained the age of eighty years and attended the provincial examinations without a break ever since obtaining their licentiate or *suts'ai* degrees, memorialist after examining the present poems and theses of T'ien Shiu-ch'êng and Wang Chih-ch'êng, and finding that although they

have failed yet their compositions may be said to be fairly good and the writing legible and well-formed, thinks that according to former precedents these two octogenarian licentiate are deserving of receiving honorary *ch'uej* degrees in commemoration of the present grace examinations. His Majesty's clemency is therefore solicited with a request that the Board of Rites be commanded to enter the names of these two octogenarians in the usual records.—*Rescript*: Let the Board of Rites report thereon.

JOINT TOUR OF INSPECTION ON THE
COREAN BORDERS.

Yü Luh, Tartar-General and brevet Governor-General of Fêngt'ien, and Tsi Luh, Civil Governor of Moakden, report that in accordance with the custom for the high authorities of Fêngt'ien to appoint officers to join the Corean officials twice a year, in summer and autumn, in inspecting the borderland of the two countries, a custom which has become all the more necessary with the advent in recent years of Chinese squatters into the debateable land with only the Yaloo river dividing the latter from the Corean territory, memorialists deputed for the recent autumn inspection Shêng Ch'ang, Colonel of the Moukden garrison, to proceed to the Corean borders for the purpose of making a joint inspection of the frontiers with a special officer deputed by the Corean government. Previous to sending the said Colonel, memorialists requested the Moukden Board of Rites to communicate with the Corean king asking him to send a special officer to meet the Chinese Inspector so that when Colonel Shêng Ch'ang arrived on the Yaloo he was at once met by a Corean officer named Chin Yung-chên and the two made a joint tour along the borders of the two countries, where, according to their report they found everything quiet. The Colonel also brought with him a signed declaration to the same effect drawn by the Corean officer in question, which has been filed in the usual department. The tour of inspection was begun on the 29th of September last.—*Rescript*: Noted.

28th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Censor Wên Yüeh states in a memorial that the official reports sent to the Throne by the authorities of Kirin with reference to the recent strike of merchants and refusal to pay *likin* through the government deputies, appear to be inconsistent

in several points, and prays that the Board of Punishment may be commanded to consider the charges and evidence carefully and report on them, etc. The proper Board is therefore ordered to deal with the above and scrutinise carefully each point in the Tartar General's memorial and the evidence obtained from the prisoners, and having done so the said Board is required to consider the case as a whole and report on the same.

(2) Kuei Nien is appointed Inspector of all affairs relating to the Bordered Yellow Mongolian Banner.

(3) Liu Sin-yuan is appointed Assistant Censor of the Metropolitan Circuit.

(4) Yung Ch'ü is appointed Inspector of affairs relating to the headquarters of the vanguard division of the Imperial Household Guards.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Chang Ying-huan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue; to Ch'en Hsio-fên, Junior Vice-President of the same Board, and to Ch'êng Chih-wei, Brigadier-General of the military division of Tat'ung, Shansi. After breakfast to-morrow morning and the transaction of affairs of State, his Majesty will proceed to H.I.M. the Empress-Dowager's presence to perform his Majesty's usual periodical obeisance, after which his Majesty returns to his own palace.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Chuang, 1st Order, and colleagues reported the result of their inspection of the arms and ordnance belonging to the Peking Field Force. The Duke of A and the Marquis of Ying reported their return to Court duties after expiration of leave of absence. The Duke of Na and the Grand Secretary and Imperial clansman, Fu K'un asked for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties. Ch'êng Chih-wei, Brigadier-General of the Tat'ung military division, Shansi, reported his arrival at Peking and humbly asked after the Imperial health.

SUMMARY DECAPITATION.

Sung Ts'ün, Director-General of the Grand Canal, reports that seven of the robbers who robbed a branch *likin* office on the Canal within the jurisdiction of Funingsien, on the night of the 5th of January of the present year, taking away plunder valued at Tls. 337, having been captured by the military police under memorialist, were recently summarily

executed. This has been done in accordance with the new law requiring that persons convicted of robbery with violence and carrying firearms may be executed on the spot without the necessity of transportation for trial at the capital, or of reporting first to the Throne the sentences imposed upon the criminals. Further that in such robberies there shall be no discrimination made of chief and followers, etc. The robbers under note were all disbanded soldiers and carried firearms which thus brought upon them all the sentence of summary decapitation.—*Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.*

29th December.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to K'un Kang, President of the Board of Ceremonies.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

Yü Tê, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments and Fêng Ming, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Works, asked for the Imperial instructions before proceeding to inspect the annual repairs made to the Eastern Imperial mausolea, and Li Tuan-fên, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, and Hsü Hui-li, Junior Vice-President of the Board of Works, did the same before proceeding for the same purpose to inspect the Western Imperial mausolea. The Dukes of Kuei and En and Ngan Hsing-a, husband of an Imperial Princess, reported their return to Court duties after expiration of leave of absence. Chih Yên, Senior Vice-President of the Mongolian and Tributary States Superintendency, asked for ten days' leave and the consort of the Eighth Imperial Princess asked for ten days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

No news of interest.

30th December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Let the commoner Chêng Ta-yuan, who had the audacity to present a petition to us in person yesterday within the forbidden precincts, be handed over to the Board of Punishments forthwith for a strict examination into his case. As the words imply, the forbidden precincts are places where no ordinary personages ought to enter with impunity, and that in the present instant Chêng Ta-yuan should enter without his presence being discovered by the officers in command of the Palace

guards shows a degree of carelessness contrary to every semblance of vigilance. We therefore command that the officers in charge of the Sihua Palace-gate yesterday be turned over to the proper Board for the determination of penalties, and as the Police Provost Marshals of the gendarmerie have also responsibilities in this connection, we command that they also be turned over for the determination of a penalty. The latter officers are also commanded in the future to exercise more care in guarding the Palace precincts from strangers, and they are hereby warned that if a similar occurrence happens again, they will be severely punished.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty granted audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Yung Kuei, Captain-General of the Bordered Yellow Mongolian Banner corps; to K'ê Mên-t'ai, Junior Vice-President of the Board of War, and to Yün Yen-ping, Chief Special High Examiner of the Kiangsi grace examinations.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

The Prince of Ch'ing, 2nd Order, and the Marquis of Sing reported their return to Court duties after expiration of leave of absence. Tsai Muh, Prince of the 4th Order, gave thanks for his appointment as Superintendent of Schools of the Left Wing of the Imperial clan. The Duke of En asked for five days' extra leave of absence from Court duties.

No other news of interest.

31st December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Since the approach of winter there has not been enough snowfall to satisfy the tillers of the soil in and around the capital which fills our hearts with anxiety on their behalf. For this reason, therefore, it is our purpose to proceed on the 3rd of January next, to offer sacrifices in person at the Temple of the Most High. Let Prince Tsai Lien, 3rd Order, sacrifice in our stead the same day at the Temple of the Seasons; Prince I Muh, 4th Order, at the Taao Hsien Temple; Prince P'u Lun, 4th Order, at the Hsuen Jên Temple, and, Tsai Tsê, Duke of the Imperial Lineage, at the Temple of Ningho.

(2) Hsueh Fu-ch'êng (Minister to Great Britain and France) has memorialised us on the subject of building gunpowder factories and magazines in open and sparsely settled spots, in order to avoid catastrophes. We agree with his view on the subject and as gunpowder is an important item in the

defence of the country, extra care should be exercised for its safety and well keeping. We therefore command the Viceroys and Governors of all the provinces to take the necessary precautions, to make plans of new grounds, if so required, according to the regulations hereby promulgated and to see that in every case the spots selected for the gunpowder factories and magazines should be in solitary and lonely places for the safety not only of the ammunition stored there but also for the lives of our subjects. If, in the future, it should turn out that there has not been exercised the proper care and precaution, emphasised in this decree upon the provincial administrations, we command the Board of Civil Appointments and of War to denounce the delinquents concerned. As for the various degrees of penalties to be awarded in such cases, let the two Boards confer and report to us on the subject.

(3) Kao Tsao-chung is appointed Sub-Chancellor of the Hanlin Academy and Chang Jên-fu Reader of the same institution.

THE IMPERIAL COURT.

His Majesty gave audience this morning in the Grand Council Chamber to Wên Jui, Brigadier-general of Malaohên, and *ex officio* a Comptroller of the Imperial Household Department, and to A K'ô-tan and Hsü Yuug-yi, Vice-Presidents of the Boards.

OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

His Majesty has appointed the Assistant Grand Secretary Hsü T'ung to act as President and fifteen Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Boards and Minor Courts as a committee to act as inspectors for the next month, of such of the provincial officials, commencing from the 5th rank down to the 9th, as may come up to the capital for audience and examination. Kuei Lin and Ts'un Jui, Colonels in Kiangsi and Hunan, respectively, gave thanks for their appointments. Wên Jui, Brigadier-general of Malaohên, etc., being ready to start for his post, asked for the Imperial instructions. The Princes of Chuang, 1st Order, and of Ting, 2nd Order, gave thanks for the Imperial Patents conferred upon their new Princesses. Prince P'ô-Lun, 4th Order, reported the result of his inspection of the repairs at the Western Imperial mausolea. Prince Tsai I, 3rd Order, asked for five days' leave of absence from Court duties.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF KANSU.

Yang Ch'ang-chün, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent and Governor-General

of the Shen-Kan provinces, states that in accordance with instructions received last year from the Throne at the instance of the Bureau of the Collected Institutes of the present dynasty to the effect that each Viceroy or Governor in the empire should make a new topographical map of the province he governs, to be placed on record for reference, the memorialist immediately gave instructions to the former Treasurer of Kansu, Chang Yao-nien and the Judge Yü Siang in conjunction with the Intendant of the Lanchow Circuit, Huang Yüen, to form a committee, for the object of making the required map of Kansu province. It was then decided by these three officials to engage some qualified persons to conduct the survey work, a head office being established at Lanchow for the purpose. A special man named Luh Kuei-sing, who has had the necessary education to take charge of the work, was then engaged from Chêkiang province, and as an assistant the sub-prefect of Chieschow, Chü Chung-siang, was deputed to act under him. But owing to the vast size of the province of Kansu, such a stupendous work for two persons to do in one year was a matter of impossibility. Hence a class of about twenty young men, with some knowledge of mathematics, was then made up and first instructed in the science of topographical survey, after which they were formed into two parties, one party under Luh Kuei-sing to survey the country inside the Great Wall ending at the Chiayü barrier gate, and the second party under the sub-prefect Chü Chung-siang to map out the prefectures, sub-prefectures and districts outside the Wall, beginning at the above-named barrier gate. The maps they have now made are on a scale of 100 li to the square inch and the country inside the Wall consist of eight prefectures, five independent sub-prefectures and one independent department. Outside the Great Wall commencing with the sub-prefecture of Ansi to Kokonor (Ts'inghai) there are also eight prefectures, and six independent sub-prefectures, with a scale of five li to the square inch, with the exception of the map of the independent department of Huap'ing which is on a scale of ten li to the square inch. In all there are sixty-seven independent sub-prefectures, departments and districts in Kansu, a map for each having been made by the above-named Topographical Survey, with the totals of the land tax attached to each. In addition to the separate maps drawn for each district and department, a general map has also been made of the whole province within and without the Great

Wall. In this map strategical points and barrier gates are marked out and the sections inhabited by the Mongols, natives, Tibetans, and Mohammedans clearly defined. This itself will be of great importance for future reference. The whole province was properly mapped out and duplicates made by the 7th of November last (1893), and the said maps have been divided into two volumes, the country inside and outside the Great Wall, for

convenience of reference. In conclusion, memorialist wishes to state that praise is due to all the persons concerned in this arduous work, and that the disbursements have been made from a special fund collected by the Provincial Treasurer, who has not touched any of the money deposited in the regular treasury for the payment of the expenses of the survey.—*Receipt: Let the proper yamen take note.*



